Called by name, in alphabet-

dered the reading of the first Ar-

ticle of Impeachment, and then

commanded: "Senators, how

say you? Is the respondent,

peachment vote in its history, the US Senate handsomely ac-

in Washington

BILL CLINTON could breathe

easily last night for the first

time in 13 months, after the

sky affair was finally lifted from

In only the second such im-

incubus of the Monica Lewin-

quitted William Jefferson Clin-

ton, President of the United

States, of the two Articles of Im-

peachment against him, mak-

ing him not only the second

tried, but the second to prevail.

He also avoided any formal

against conviction on the

enjoy a majority, constituted a

triumph for the President and

Lies that ignited a

page2

national scandal

rackoning begins

of the two-thirds majority re-

not-guilty votes) seemed an

minds across the US.

Mow the real

Leading article

Senate was in utter silence, but for the single questions and answers called across the chamber: The Democrats' vote held solid for "not guilty"; but with nine Republicans defecting on the perjury charge, and five on the obstruction of justice charge, Mr Clinton was acquit-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY AND

from his or her seat to deliver

their verdict. For the half-hour

duration of the two votes, the

ANDREW MARSHALL

President to be impeached and ted even more convincingly motion of censure, which was than expected, and considerably rejected by the Senate without more than Andrew Johnson, who survived removal from of-The final votes - 55-45 fice by a single vote. At the close of proceedings,

charges of perjury, 50-50 on the obstruction of justice the Chief Justice was presented with a "golden gavel" - an charges - in a Senate where Mr award reserved for Congres-Clinton's Republican opponents sional chairmen who have presided for 100 hours - and given a standing ovation. In a closing speech, Mr Rehnquist spoke of the "more free-form environment" he had found at the Senate compared with his own Supreme Court, but said he was leaving "a wiser, but not a sadder man".

A Senate trial, a splicing of politics and justice, is one of the rare times when the three branches of the United States system come together. Hailed as living "civics" lesson for Americans, it was also a demonstration for the world of American democracy at its limits. his legal team, falling well short

The President was expected quired for conviction. But the to make some form of address 50-50 vote on the obstruction after the vote, acknowledging charge (with five Republican once again the pain he had caused his family and colleagues.

eminently fitting conclusion to The presidential line is that a case that had divided legal the White House will be a "gloat-free zone" after im-It was another day of drama peachment is swept away, with and history on the Capitol, the the President expected instead culmination of the constitu- to give the impression that he wants business as usual to retional process of presidential impeachment not seen since sume. Spokesmen said there the trial of Andrew Johnson in was a "sense of relief", but were 1868. At midday, after three not even sure whether the days of closed debate and as President would watch the key many weeks of open argument, moment on television.

the heavy doors of the Senate The White House has dischamber were swing open, counted reports that it will use and reporters, Congressional every opportunity to get back at staff and visitors crowded into the Congressional Republicans the galleries for the final vote. who led the impeachment as-The presiding judge, Chief sault, saying that would be Justice William Rehnquist, orcounterproductive.

Of the Republican senators who gave public explanations of their decision to break with their party's "guilty" consensus, a majority cited legal considerations, including the fact that in their view the evistantial. Political considerations were not far away, however, as the majority represent states where pro-Clinton sentiment is strong.

Arlen Specter, from Penn-

sylvania, distinguished himself by calling out "not proven" when asked for his vote, a nonconstitutional option that was recorded, after a frisson, as "not guilty". Even though the last elec-

tions are only three months

the Bill and Monica affair testimony of the leading lady, gearing up for the 2000 elections, with presidential candidates emerging from the Republican Party fund-raising activity getting into high gear and lists of vulnerable Con-

President Bill Clinton at the White House last year as the Lewinsky scandal raged; his tenure is now secure AFP

gressional districts being The Democrats will try to capitalise on their lead in the polls, which is partly derived from public antagonism towards

the Republican stance on im-The final public chapter of

closed a year that had seen Monica Lewinsky in the Senate comedy and tragedy in equal measure and tested every pillar of American society and its democracy.

THE INDEPENDENT

FREE MAGAZINE FOR EVERY READER

'Senators, how say you?'

'Not guilty on all counts'

It had augmented American discourse at every level, from high political and constitutional argument through inspira-

anecdotes and coarse innuendo. It had also seen the return of some of its leading characters in the final week: the filmed

chamber, and yesterday, in the press and on television, the self-defence of Linda Tripp, the woman whose tape-recordings of her young friend started the

whole sorry scandal.
While the public aspects of the Monica Lewinsky affair are tional rhetoric, to ribald now closed, the private pain will probably persist. There has been only speculation about the harm that Mr Clinton has

caused to his family.

Shrug from the sidewalk in Main St, USA

IF YOU wanted to know the out- BY DAVID USBORNE come of the trial of President in New York Clinton - as if it was in much the acquittal headlines rushing blaring from the NBC Jumed in the sky - at the square's southern end.

This, though, was an historic business of the country". event without an audience.

"Trial? What trial?" asked Jimmy Funghini, the doorman

doubt - Times Square was the like nearly everyone else in this place to be. You could not miss city, he had long ago grown weary of the business. Mr by on the electronic ticker or Funghini shared in the sentiment of the vast majority - that botron - a giant TV suspend- at last politicians in the capital, President Clinton included, "will be able to get on with the

Not that the President comes out smelling like Valentine's roses. "He needs a smack at the Doubletree Hotel, under right on the back of the head for the shadow of the Jumbotron. what he did - really, he was

ini. "But I never believed that who asked to remain anonyhe should be impeached. I just mous, thought the President don't think so."

On the corner by the hotel, a white-bearded tramp was collecting money in an old cigar box. From Puerto Rico, Abraham said: "I told my people before the trial started that he was going to get off. Listen, they all do it down there and the Republicans were paying people to go after the President."

In the police sub-station that sits immediately beneath the Lewinsky," said one owner, who ticker, there was a rare voice of disappointment at the verdict.

should have been thrown out. "If I had committed perjury and lied like he did, I would have been out of a job and people would have been angry if I didn't lose my job," the officer explained.

And there were hints of chagrin too on 47th Street, lined with jewellery shops owned by the Jewish community. "He lied and he owes another apology to gave only his first name, Abe. "You know there are plenty of

Clinton is happy-go-lucky and he gets away with it. That bothers me." On 6th Avenue, Rich

Munchgesang, a building engineer, was clearing a street drain outside Rupert Murdoch's Fox News Channel. But Mr Munchgesang had tuned out months ago. "So he lied, but what was he meant to say there, right in front of his wife? That he had slept with another woman?"

who are sitting in jail now. sky affair is just heating up for the publishing industry, which is expected to unleash an avalanche of titles. Among them there will be, Ask Not, Tell Not: The Triangulation of William Jefferson Clinton, and The Point of Knives: The Triumph and Tragedy of Kenneth Start. Whether there are readers out there with enough

appetite for such books remains to be seen. One, however, is certain to get attention. It is Monica's Story, compiled by Ms Lewinsky with the help of the British biographer An-

The news programmers are going to have to find new sub-He was joking, of course, but pretty stupid," said Mr Fungh- The cop in charge yesterday, people who committed perjury jects to report, but the Lewin- drew Morton.

INSIDE THIS SECTION Art fraud trial ends

John Drewe was found guilty of the biggest contemporary art fraud Home P5

GM foods warning Scientists warned of the dangers of GM foods Home P6

Horn of Africa Ethiopia and Eritrea again rejected UN calls to end hostilities Foreign P13

Guns lawsuit A \$4m award is turning point for anti-gun lobby Foreign P15 HOME 2-12, FOREIGN 13-15, BUSINESS 17-20, SPORT 21-32, CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 32, WEATHER 2

Bank signals merger Lloyds TSB signalled its readiness to join the wave of bank mergers Business P18

Cotton's view Fran Cotton gives Brian Viner his vision of rugby Sport P21

INSIDE THE REVIEW Old Romantics The English gentleman is a narcissistic poseur - and effete at that

Fergal Keane Have the days of the poet laureate passed? Comment P3

Review Front

Our critics take a look at the best of this week's arts Arts P13

A serpent's tale Jeremy Seal's stories of snakes alive and dead Books P14



BACK PAGE LETTERS 2. LEADERS & COMMENT 3-7, FEATURES 8-9, OBITUARIES 10-11. AHTS 12-13, BOOKS 14-16, COUNTING 9-18, TRAVEL 19-23



¥THE INDEPENDENT

New sections, more readers

Text week. The Independent will be even bigger and better. On Monday, we launch a new 12-page broadsheet sports supplement, which will include reports and analysis of the weekend's action by our award-winning team of writers and photographers. As well as reports from the FA Cup fifth round, England's one-day cricket final against Australia, and grand prix athletics from Birmingham, Richard Williams is granted a frank interview with Will Carling, and Brian Viner begins a new weekly col-

umn. Plus, a new, comprehensive briefing for the week ahead, a look at the best sports sites on the Internet and an expanded racing service. Every Monday, it's a must-read for sports fans.



And on Wednesday next week, we are launching a new weekly business supplement, Business Review. This will be in addition to the business pages in the news section, and will contain interviews, comment and features from our acclaimed team of writers including Hamish McRae, Jeremy Warner, Diane Coyle and Nic Cicutti. We shall also be improving our Wednesday investment pages with more tips on how to make your money work best for you.

These two new sections are launched at a time of renewed success for The Independent and The Independent on Sunday. The Independent's audited circulation for January is 219,549, an increase of more than 1,000 copies a day on our December figure. The Independent on Sunday's January figure is

252,587, a rise of almost 3,000. Further recognition for the quality of both papers' journalism came in this week's announcement of

the shortlist for the British Press Awards. Five of our writers have been shortlisted: Hamish McRae (F) cial Journalist of the Year); Deborah Ross (Feature Writer of the Year); John Lichfield (Foreign Reporter of the Year); Donald Macintyre (Specialist Reporter of the Year) and Blake Morrison (Critic of the



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FIVE YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY: THE TRIALS OF A PRESIDENT FROM THE WHITEWATER INQUIRY AND THE PAULA JONES AFFAIR ...

12 January 1994. Bill Clinton, under pressure. requests a special prosecutor to investigate questions about his involvement in

20 January 1994 Janet Reno the Attorney General selects Robert B. Fiske Jr. as special prosecu-

6 May 1994 Paula Jones files a lawsuit alleging Clinton sexually harassed her in an Arkansas hotel room three years earliclerk and he was governor.

5 August 1994

After Congress reauthorises Counsel Act - and Clinton signs it- a panel of three federal appeals court judges

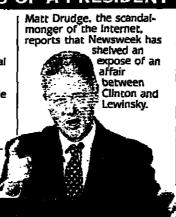


administration Solicitor-General Kenneth Starr to take

7 January 1998 Called to testify in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case, Monica Lewinsky denies she ever had a sexual relationship with the President. She allegedly asks Linda Tripp, a "friend", to lie for her as well. But Tripp has another agenda.

13 January Tripp wears a hidden microphone for the FBI and records intimate conversa rions with Lewinsky bout the President. Prosecutors vainly ask Lewinsky to co-operate with them.

17 January



21 January The Washington Post reports the existence of the tapes that Tripp made of her chats with Lewinsky.

Clinton denies sexual relations with Lewinsky: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman," he tells reporters, without elaborating on his somewhat idiosyncratic definition of sex.

27 January Hillary Clinton appears on national television to defend her husband, calling detractors' allegations a "vast right-wing conspiracy."

29 January The Clintons' aplomb, combined with Middle America's indifference, combine to give "President

Houdin!" his first great escape of the year. Opinion polls show Clinton's approval ratings at an all-time high,

Ken-

neth Starr, the special prosecutor, continues his investi-gation into the President's peccadilloes, Kathleen Wil-

ey, another former White House worker, accuses the President on television of fondling her next to the door of the Oval Office. Paula Jones's sexual

harassment case against the President is dismissed. Willey's claims justfade away 2 June

Lewinsky replaces her

William Ginsburg. Start hasn't managed to convince Lewinsky to testify, but his tentacles are spreading.

Linda Tripp testifies before a grand jury in Washington. She makes no public comments. Clinton's approval remains high.

28 July Kenneth Starr announces he has finally reached a deal giving Lewinsky immunity from prosecution for perjury. in exchange he will get from her full details about her relationship with the Presi-

Lie that ignited a national scandal

THE TRIAL

The beginning

17 January 1998 WHEN THE Internet gossippeddler. Matt Drudge, told the world on his website about a presidential affair with a White House trainee, he was only relating what more cautious editors at Newsweek had decided to hold back on for more proof.

Four days later though, the story exploded. The Washington Post ran a more detailed story across its front page and brought the name Monica to the public for the very first time.

Within hours, Washington was in turmoil. The President gave an uncharacteristically half-hearted denial. Incredible the story might be, but it was all too plausible. Bill Clinton. elected despite, by his own admission, causing "pain" in his marriage, was given only days to survive.

But on 26 January Mr Clinton emerged fighting. He declared: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman. Ms Lewinsky:" It was an all or a sex aid. There was a jealous nothing gambit: if false, it was fit. Monica had made a scene political suicide – or so we all thought. The next day, his wife. the White House and learnt that Hillary, inveighed against "a vast right-wing conspiracy" designed to drive her husband from office. Then the White House went quiet, too quiet.

The investigation

cutor, Kenneth Starr. On 16 January: unbeknown to the American public, Mr Starr had had the still embryonic Lewinsky affair added to his portfolio on the pretext that it resembled the President's other alleged wrongdoings. His concern, he insisted, was with Monica's job offer from Revion. Mr Clinton was defending himself in a sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones of Arkansas and. because Monica had been named as a witness in that case. Monica's job could be seen as an unlawful inducement to lie under oath; in short. presidential witness tampering. Mr Starr then set up a grand

Enter the independent prose-

Monica meets the law On December 17 1998, Mr Clinton called Monica in the early hours to warn her that she was on the witness list for the Paula Jones case. He hinted by offering a sworn statement she testified later, to deny the relationship. The resulting af-

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

jury and summoned witnesses to determine whether the President had a case to answer. Mr Clinton looked scared: the prosecutor, determined.

Between January and August. leaks dripped from the supposedly secret grand jury proceedings. There were tapes. Monica had confided her most intimate thoughts to her friend and colleague, Linda Tripp, who had secretly recorded them and passed them to Mr Starr. There were letters and e-mails. Monica had also recounted her affair with the President to friends around the world, to her therapists and to her diary. There were visits. Monica visited the White House more than 30 times after she left its employ, and was frequently signed in by his secretary. There was a cigar used as when she was refused entry to another woman, Eleanor Mondale, daughter of the former Vice-President, was with the President. There were phone calls. More than 50 of them. There were gifts, including books and ties from her, a hatpin and a stone bear from him - most of which ended up hidden in a box under Betty Currie's bed. And there was a blue dress from the GAP, that dress. stained with the President's

that she might avoid appearing instead. She decided at once,



The legislative clerk reading the first Article of Impeachment against President Clinton before the Senate vote in Washington yesterday

unless she told the truth. She six months and two changes of lawyers, she agreed not only to talk, but to surrendered the

The turning point

The day after Monica received her immunity, Mr Clinton agreed to testify "voluntarily" to Mr. Starr's grand jury Dn's
August, he gave a blood sample to be matched against that dress. And three days later, Monica Samille Lewinsky ar-Courthouse to tell the truth.

Monica testified to a sexual relationship with the President of the United States.

On 17 August, Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to testify to a grand jury in his own defence. By special arrangement, he gave his side of the story on closed circuit fidavit gave Mr Starr his open-television from the White ing. He threatened prosecution. House map room. That evening

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

AM HI 4.55 11.1 3.23 3.8 3.30 4.8 9.90 5.6 Ire 9.41 3.6 10.50 3.0 9.56 3.3 8.32 4.9 Ph.] 4.18 7.4 4.12 5.2 12.31 4.6 9.15 8.1 ten 4.13 5.7 3.03 5.8 4.48 1.4 9.30 4.0 6.14 3.9 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7 1.207 4.7

AIR QUALITY

SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE

Sun rises: 07.19 Sun sees: 17.11 Moon rises:05.26 Moon sets: 14.15

the President told the nation. bargained for immunity. After that he lied. "Indeed I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky," he said, looking more petulant than contrite, "that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse of judgement on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible."

But the indiffered he craved. The Starr report and after was reduced by his lambasting Mr Starr for his troubles

In the early afternoon of 21 August, reporters were told to pages of notes and appendix. rived at the Washington District stand by for a presidential an and thousands of pages of evinouncement. The press corps froze: was this the end? Resignation was on everyone's lips but not the President's. The national flag behind him, the Chief of the Joint Staffs alongside, he announced US raids on Afghanistan and Sudan in retaliation for the US embassy bombings two weeks before.

Inevitably, the attacks raised questions about Mr Clinton's

motives. Could the President's human. Their on-again offauthority hold? With criticism again relationship lasted almounting, staff and allies began to defect. Switching tactics, the President apologised, "to my family, also my friends, my staff, my cabinet, Monica Lewinsky and her family, and the American people".

On 9 September the Starr re- last "intimate contact". Six port was delivered to Congress. With 20 pages of narrative, 100 out 11 counts on which William Jefferson Clinton could be liable to impeachment. Within 48 hours, the contents were law-

fully released on the Internet. America professed to be shocked and disgusted by the President's defilement of the office and the quasi-pornography

Monica, though, had become

most two years. Monica dreamt that he would be free once he left office, but her immediate ambition was more modest: she wanted "proper" sex. But he refused to go further, and on 29 March 1997, a year after she had been exiled to the Pentagon, her diary recorded their months later she set about trial.

looking for work in New York On 21 September, the President's map room testimony was released for broadcast. Again, the air swirled with resignation talk. And again, Mr Clinton defied the odds. His poll

Impeachment and trial On 5 October, the House of Representatives judiciary committee initiated impeachment proceedings against a President for only the third time.

Congressional elections that had been billed a "referendum" on the President, the Democrats made unexpected gains. And 10 days later, Mr Clinton settled the Paula Jones case for \$850,000 and no apology. The White House relaxed. The end, we all believed, was in sight and that end would be censure. No impeachment and no

On 19 November, however, the House opened its hearings, and the first witness, Kenneth Starr, left to a standing ovation. Two weeks later, White House lawyers went to Capitol Hill to defend the President. On 11 to 12 December, the judiciary committee approved four articles of impeachment. Cen-

sure was voted down. On 16 December, the day before the full House debate, the But he could not do both. US launched new air raids on Iraq. Republicans called "foul",

Democrats pleaded "national security", and the debate was delayed - but only by a day. After two days of tumult, the House voted along party lines for two of the four articles - perjury and obstruction of justice - and Bill Clinton overtook Richard Nixon to become the first President since Andrew Johnson in 1868

to face trial in the Senate. The Senate trial opened formally on 7 January. But the cross-party consensus the Senate had hoped for remained elusive. Monica Lewinsky was summoned back to Washington. And while the House prosecutors could not pierce her loyalty to Bill Clinton, their efforts gave Americans their first full acquaintance with her. She was sensible, bright and by now almost as legally adept as her lawyers. Curiosity sated, the Senate called it a day, and slunk behind closed doors to decide not whether, but by how much, they would vote to acquit.

Afterwards: The doubts Few, including even the harshest of the President's critics, envisaged that the impeachment process would run its course, but the depth of the party divide made compromise impossible. Even now, though, much remains unclear.

The line between the public and private behaviour of presidents is still blurred. At each level of impeachment, another segment of the population deserted the political elite, and attached itself to Bill Clinton instead.

But the story of Bill and Monica leaves nagging doubts. Did Monica tell the whole touth. or just as much as would not bring down the President? Was flirting the known White House route to jobs for the girls? And why, why, why did Bill Clinton, a lawyer, fall for Monica. the trainee, when he knew the Paula Jones lawsuit was pending? Without Paula, he could have kept Monica secret; without Monica, he could have de-fended himself against Paula.

But then we never thought he could survive, and he did.

BRITAIN TODAY KEY Noon today

FORECAST

Chambel Is, SE & Cent S England, London, E Anglia, E Midlands: A cold and feasts start but it will be mainly dry with sunny spells. A light south to south-west is not Man (1909-4-70 (39)-45F).

Wi Midlands, SW England, Wales, MR England, Lake Dist, Isle of Marc A lot of cloud and same light ram or distale, especially on the coast and over the hills. A light costs-mesterly wind. May temp 7-100 (45-50F) Cent N. E & NE England: Rather a lot of cloud, but mainly dry with some sunny breast. A 5/ht south-most word, Max temp 6-8C (43-46F)

SIN & RNN Sectiond, Glasgow, W & N Isles: A cold and trosty start inland.
There wall be a few ammy spells for most places, but cloud will build bringing some anable to the north. A freshering south-westerly wind, Max bemp 6-9C (43-48F).

N Ireland: it will be dry and quite mild with some decent surny periods, aith if will become greezy. A Irish south-westerly mild. Mar temp 7-90 (45-48F)

OUTLOOK

Find each preed south-eastwards comprises but it will turn milder. Scodard will be winds duth surns spells but rain will spread across the north. Winds will strengthen by Manday bringing scattered showers and samp spells. The south call be mild, but the showers will turn wintry in Scotland.

London: A12 Green Nan Roundabout.
Lestenstone, Majer Loudworks on new M11
solt read Until 31st December.
Cambridgeshine A10 between Foston and
M11, Firstinatering and bridge maintenance.
Acts, at Sheareth Mar Until 14th February.
Directe: MS J18-19. Majer Roudworks on
Avonmouth Sindye, Until 23nd June 2001.
Lancashine: MS Edwiren JCT Standach and
JSD Leytand Roudworks, contration and at
50mph speed kind either side of Chambols.
Rechard Schaes. Until 15th February.
Greater Manchester: A57. Namow lance
Manchester-Jesuit. due to Metolink con-

snucion work. Umil 29th Fobruary. South Yorkshire: MT Botheen J34 Tinsley Vacduct (A6109) S. J34 Tinsley Vacduct (A6178). Shotlinid. Camageway robuged to 2 kines southbound. Unit 21st Novembor 2000. cestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd. Gloucesternite: A40 Lansdown Rd, Chellenham. Closed due to readworks inhound Diversions in place. Limit Ist June Sufficilit: A14 Foliastower Docks. Readworks und 29th February.

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YESTERDAY EXTREMES

Warmest: Isles of Scilly 10C (50F) Coldest (day): Kenley 3C (37F) Wettest: Isle of Skye 0,20 ms For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

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1	Anglesey	3.5	0.01	8	46
1	Avienore	1.2	0.04	Š 7	41
ı	Belfast	3.2	0.01	7	45
1	Birmingham	0.5	0.01	Ś	41
ı	Bournemouth	-	-	-	-
ı	Bristol	0.5	0	7	45
1	Виже	0	0 05	3	37
ij	Cardiff	8.0	0	9	48
ı	Clacton	7.0	0	5	41
	Сготег	3.7	0.03	5	41
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1	Exprouth	1.2	0	7	45
ı	Fishguard	3.7	0.02	7	45
ı	Folkestone	7.9	. 0	6	43
ı	Glasgow	0.1	0.01	8	46
1	Hastings	8.4	0	7	45
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ı	Newcastle	9.5	10.0	?	45
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۱	Salcombe	_	٠		41
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1	Southport	7.1	ŏ	5	45
)	Stornomay	3.7	0.02	÷	45
ı	Sm307&6	4.5	0.02	7	45
ı	Tenby	4.3	0.01	ģ	48
ŧ	Torquay	1.3	0.01	ğ	48
1	Meston-s-mare		-	-	70
1	Weymouth	3.4	Ö	7	45
1	3	٠.٦	U	•	43

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday Information by PA WeatherCentry RAIN OR SHINE...

HUNDREDS OF villages were cut off by massive snowfalls in eastern Europe yesterday. In Hungary, the army had to ferry food supplies to more than 200 towns and villages. In central and western Bulgaria. 166 villages were without electricity after blizzards cut power lines.

More snow was expected in the next 24 hours. Winds were gusting up to 100km (63 miles) an hour causing snowdrifts



THE WORLD

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

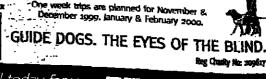


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CLINTON ACQUITTED

...TO MONICA LEWINSKY, THE STARR REPORT, IMPEACHMENT BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE FINAL SENATE VERDICT

6 August Lewinsky testifies in front of a grand jury for six hours.

17 August
On the day of his long-awaired restimony the President tells the grand jury, and the nation, that he had a relationship with Lewinsky that was "not appropriate." He does not apologise.

20 August

Clinton orders the bombing of a "chemical weapons plant" in Sudan and a terrorist base in Afghanistan.

4 September Clinton apologises for the



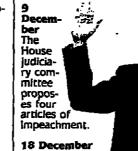
9 September Starr sends his finished report to Congress under high security. He has found "Substantial and credible

11 September The Starr report, in all its damning, lurid detail, is published on the Internet.

Clinton's video testimony to the grand jury is shown on TV, but it does not trigger his anticipated downfall

3 November emocrats increase seats in the Congressional mid-term elections – a massive boost for Clinton

impeachment vote even If it appears it will go in favour of the President.



Congressmen launch into a

heated and con-

debate on impeachment. 19 December The House votes to impeach Clinton.

20 December Polls show Clinton's approval rating still rising. 7 January 1999. impeachment trial of the President

begins in Senate. Chief Justice William Rehnquist sworn in to preside. He swears in the 100 senators as

Monica Lewinsky is Interviewed privately by House prosecutors.

The Senate rejects a motion to dismiss the charges. It authorises subpoenas for questioning of Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal.

1-3 February Lewinsky, Jordan and Blumenthal give videod deposition to House managers and the president's lawyers.

4 February Senate votes to allow show



Clips from the videotabed

testimony of Lewinsky, Juldan and Blumenthal as well as Clinton are played publicly at the Senate that

8 February House managers and White

House lawyers present clos-ing arguments **9 February** Senate declines to anange rules to allow open deliberations on impeacement arti-cles and begins preate deliberations.

12 February Senate votes, President Clin-

Scandal Now the real reckoning for a shamed President

POLITICAL PROSPECTS

THE SMOKE has started to By Andrew Marshall clear from the battlefield. The political casualties on both sides are being counted, and on the Republican side at least, they are huge. But out of the mists of battle, President Bill Clinton emerges, still in office, as large as life and twice as boisterous, with two years of his

Presidency left to run. The past year has focused, to an unprecedented degree, on him, on his intimate life and his personal habits. The issue was not, as it was with Richard Nixon, all those angular staff members plotting war in the furthest corners of South east Asia while breeding dark con-

spiracies closer to home. All of the accessories here the Betty Curries and Vernon Jordans, ambassadors and private detectives - were apparently subordinate to the earthly desires of one man. President William Jefferson Clinton, and the ways in which he had gone about concealing them.

And it is tempting to conultimately within himself, in strength and his popularity in the country.

He argued from the beginhave to win," Mr Clinton said. a pre-modern skill; it draws

If there is one thing the past those around him, mystifies year has taught us about Bill and fascinates them.

in Washington

already - it is his remarkable resolve in the face of crisis, his ability to turn a major setback into a rousing victory.

will move on, that politics is now about America and not about him. The second is to create a platform that will pay dividends for the Democrats in the next elections. The third, which will be the most difficult, is to persuade Americans that his Presidency was about more than just sex, lying about sex, and the no one can at the moment, is obstruction of justice.

There will be plenty of talk in the next few days about the huge damage done to political institutions, to the Presidency, to politics itself, and most of it in the short term - can be written off. The President has confounded his enemies, and he has emerged above the fray. The institution of the Presi-

dency has been weakened for his personal resources of Johnson's decision not to stand ter, Chelsea, is said to have sufagain in 1968 after the disasters of Vietnam. Bill Clinton's personal life may be in ruins, his ning to his former adviser Dick dignity may be in shreds, but he Morris that it would be necesis still President. And he has sary to struggle to win the huge assets to deploy. What case, that there were no short saved him was, in part, the cuts. After he and Morris had astonishing way he has of com-

campaign before the election even gets under way, and make some noise. He also has a firmer grasp on his own party

than ever before. Relationships have been formed under fire for the past He has three tasks ahead of year that will be crucial in the him. The first is to show that he next 12 months, especially with Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democrats in the House, With Mr Gephardt and the Vice-President, Al Gore, he will now start to shape a strategy for keeping the White House, winning the Congress and making a clean sweep in 2000.

What he cannot judge, what what will happen next. The personal consequences for the President have been enormous. If it is true that part of his deal with his wife was that his philandering would be at least discreet, then that bargain is over. Not only the details of what he did, but his thoughts on his marriage – that it was lovewould survive the next two gate, arguably since Lyndon B His relationship with his daugh-

fered particularly badly. But the riddles and the conogy of the President. They lie Washington, in the southern discussed the possibility of an immediate admission of guilt. America, individually, en tives came to loathe him so watch the Republicans yester-he concluded that that there masse, on television, from the much, and in the hearts and day, wondering what had hit was only one way out. "We just rostrum or the flagstones. It is minds of people who believed them, and realising that it was



Bill and Hillary Clinton in the Rose Garden at the White House on the day the House of Representatives voted to impeach him

less, that he was not sure if it often that the President's survival was puzzling that we have years -are now horribly public. almost forgotten: this man was elected to office, twice, and probably would be again if he

tradictions of impeachment, has been changing. Clinton

could stand again. For two decades, America

and its most deep scars, do not represents this nation better lie in the personality and biol- than the Republicans, and that shone through again and again. in the internal dynamics of You do not have to think he is a good man, or honest, or the they could topple a President. Bill Clinton. A year ago he was even when it was clear that that written off as terminally woundwas not what the country ed. He had to win; he did; and He will go out into America, wanted. We have been told so now he will seek to win again.

The making of some and the damning of others

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Clinton, who has emerged from a year of scandal with his political authority underted and his Kenneth Starr (loser) approval ratings sky high, the Lewinsky scandal has produced a crop of winners and losers, some of them as unpredictable as Mr Clinton.

Hillary Clinton (winner) The betrayed wife has emerged with her dignity intact, her popularity soaring and the prospect of her own political career on the horizon.

A year ago, Mrs Clinton, 51, turned what could have been an embarrassment into a personal triumph when she appeared on sky's confessions. television to deny misconduct by her husband and blame a "vast right-wing conspiracy". When, seven months later, he confessed his "inappropriate conduct", she stood by him, campaigning the length and breadth of the nation for Democrats for the November mid-term elections.

She was also her husband's most effective weapon against his feminist critics, who felt: "If it's all right by Hillary, it's all right by us." Mrs Clinton now attracts as much, if not more public applause than her hushand. The state of her marriage, however is far from clear.

ASIDE FROM President Bill By ANDREW MARSHALL

AND MARY DEJEVSKY

Appointed independent prosecutor in 1994 to investigate the Whitewater land deal and other allegations of wrongdoing by President Clinton, extended

sky affair in January 1998. Pilloried throughout the long and expensive investigation by the White House and Clinton supporters, Start, 52, delivered his report last September, a riproaring read of sex and dissemblance in the White House, based mainly on Monica Lewin-

Starr was hailed by his (few) supporters as a conscientious seeker after truth and condemned by the rest as a sexcrazed investigator out to get the President. Despite periodic attempts to humanise his public image, he remained typecast as a straitlaced zealot.

Cheryl Mills (winner) Thirty-three-year-old lawyer who became a star after her passionate presentation of Clinton's case in the Senate. A slim. earnest woman, she spoke slow-

tity of the "rule of law" and

"those facts, those stubborn facts" that stood in the way of the

Matt Drudge (winner)
The Internet gossip colum

obstruction of justice charge. A self-styled "army brat" who grew up on military bases,

mainly in Virginia, she was re-cruited by the White House from a Washington law firm when Mr Clinton came to office and is as loyal as any of his staff. his inquiry to cover the Lewin-

While a glittering legal career now promises, there is one shadow. She too is under investigation after evidence she gave to a Congressional committee relating to another White House scandal - the presence of confidential FBI files in the White House - was condemned as perjurious.

Newt Gingrich (loser)

Having pledged to use every opportunity in the campaign for the mid-term Congressional elections to condemn Mr Clinton's behaviour with Ms Lewinsky, the House Speaker, 55, saw his party suffer a net loss in the House of Representatives and only maintain its representation in the Senate. Accepting responsibility for his party's failure, Mr Gingrich resigned from his position and the House, becoming the highestly and deliberately of the sanc-ranking and least predicted victim of the Lewinsky affair.

The Internet gossip columnist demonstrated to the world that a combination of brazen flair and modern technology can run rings around the hidebound journalism-school graduates who comprise the cream of the American media.

Drudge, whose trademark trilby was a more and more frequent sight on television talk shows as the year progressed, has been shunned by the mainstream as a risk-taking maverick, but he was more often vindicated than not.

Paula Jones (loser) An Arkansas native, now living in California, whose sexual ha rassment lawsuit against Mr Clinton set off the train of

peachment Although the case was dismissed by an Arkansas judge last April before it came to court, Mr Clinton agreed to settle last December, rather than risk the case being revived

events that led to his im-

on appeal.
While Ms Jones received \$850,000 (£530,000), much if not all of that will go on lawyers' fees and she did not even get the presidential apology she



VALENTINE'S DAY. SHOW YOUR HEART WITH

The intern who became a national star

By Andrew Marhsall in Washington

JUST OVER a vear ago, Monica Lewinsky was packing up her belongings in Washington and preparing to leave for the Internet or recorded on New York. To most people. she was just another one of the thousands of young working people who move through the city every year, before moving on to another job. Those who

her first television appearance this year, giving video-taped evidence to the impeachment trial of her forname and face were amongst the most recognised images on

her as shy, and not especially

Her trademark beret (by then swapped for a black baseball cap) was an instantlyrecognisable cliché.

Her relationship with the President had been set out in minute detail in newspapers and on television programmes recognition, but few have seen

THE LEWINSKY FACTOR

look sexually alluring.

as a stalker by some (appar-

ently White House inspired) re-

parents' divorce and her un-

stable nature. But everything that we have seen and heard

under wrans.

around the world, and her most intimate exchanges with her friends had been put on

tern and Pentagon employee will not now work for Revion. as she had hoped when she left Washington. It is not clear met her at parties described what will happen to her life.

She says she lives in Cali-

fornia, as much as she lives Yet by the time she made anywhere. She will tell her own story through a forthcoming book, Monica's Story. by the journalist Andrew Morton, and she will be interviewed mer boss, Ms Lewinsky's by Barbara Walters for ABC and by Channel Four News. ly replaced with two old Wash-Once the last flush of media attention has drained, she will doubtless try to resurrect something close to a normal

> Monica is just one of the figures in the drama of the last year whose daily existence has been transformed beyond

since belies that. She has appeared as a bright and composed figure with an excellent recall of the events that took Most will carry on in their place around her. She has a depresent jobs, or have a network gree in psychology, which must of supporters to call on. She has have come in handy in the last spent close to a million dollars

The last time she spoke to on legal fees, most of which she will recoup from the book and the President was on January television, but she has no easy 5 a year ago, when she had alreturn to normal life mapped ready been subpoenaed to give evidence in the sexual harass-Ms Lewinsky's first lawyer, ment suit brought by former William Ginsburg, did not help Arkansas employee Paula with the presentational aspects of her case. He appeared She was angry with the

to relish the publicity, and President, who she had rearranged for a photo shoot cently seen on television with with Vanity Fair that made her his wife "being romantic on their holiday vacation". They discussed her affidavit, and But Mr Ginsburg was quickshe said goodbye, "very abruptly," she remembered. Asked what she felt for Clinton ington pros, who kept her literally and metaphorically now, she said: "I have mixed She was initially described feelings."

"You think he's a good president, and I assume you think he's a very intelligent man," ports, which stressed her she was asked, and she responded, simply: "I think he's an intelligent president."



Monica Lewinsky arrives at the US District Courthouse last August to testify before the grand jury Reuters

THE 706 STARTS AT E1,120

Republicans lost almost everything

THE OPPOSITION

BATTERED, BRUISED and By ANDREW MARSHALL bleeding the Republican Party gives every appearance of having no idea what has hit it. Over the last year it has lost its Con-ton removed, but 26 per cent the last year it has lost its Congressional leaders, lost seats in an election, lost the impeachment battle and increasingly it shows every sign of having lost its sense of direction.

The new Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, will week to stress the party's in-White House. It is is crucial for the party to show that it is not just about impeachment.

. The attempt to impeach Bill Clinton gave every sign at every stage of being a partisan battle. Democrats voted Few crossed party lines. The removal of an elected President proved highly unpopular with the public, and the Republicans

plunged in the opinion polls. In the last few days, the party has started to realise that it must re-orient itself or watch control of the Congress slip out of sight at the next election.

Americans are equally divided over the Senate Democrats' handling of affairs, with 45 per cent approving and the same number disapproving, according to a recent Gallup poll. But only a third of Americans approve of the Senate Republicans, while 57 per cent disapprove.

"We're all sick of it," said Governor George W Bush of Texas a few weeks ago of impeachment, a sentiment that a Newsweek opinion poll said

party. According to the survey, wanted him censured and 21 per cent believed he had been punished enough.

Look at the hardcore activists, and the picture is very different. Amongst the party's religious conservatives, twothirds wanted Mr Clinton out: meet with the President next and the religious conservatives constitute a crucial quarter of tention to build bridges to the the party, the best organised part, with plenty of money and the devotion to duty. They will be furious at the turn of events.

The party's more centrist, secular leaders, especially those at the state level, are worried that the continuing divide against; Republicans voted for. between the party leadership in Washington, the activist base and the electorate at large will harm them. "We're giving the impression that all we're interested in is Clinton's removal," Oklahoma's Governor Frank Keating told Newsweek The party's Chairman, Jimi Nicholson, told a meeting that the Republicans "have sustained political damage, at least

in the short term". The divisions in the party between its moderates, mainly from the north and radicals. mainly from the south, will only have been exacerbated by the dying days of impeachment.

To this can be added a split between House Republicans and those in the Senate. The trial managers, from the lower house, felt they had been shown insufficient respect by the Senate leadership as it tried to shift was the view of much of the the issue as rapidly as possible.

Tripp rebuilds her image

THE OTHER WOMAN

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

THE WOMAN who alienated all America when she stood on the steps of the Washington district courthouse and said: "I'm you

... an average American", emerged yesterday from half a year of obscurity to start rebuilding her shattered image.

Linda Tripp, whose clandestine taping of Monica Lewinsky's most intimate confessions won her the label 'most reviled woman in America", was back as suddenly as she had vanished.

But it was a new Linda Tripp. The heavy, clumsy, boxy woman whose ponderous frame inspired Linda Tripp look-alike contests in gay bars across the country has lost weight (a lot), softened her hair and her makeup and revamped her wardrobe. She is fragile - breaking down in tears, reportedly, during a two-hour interview with the

New York Times - but largely Her deepest regret, she



The new-look Tripp

said, was the pain she caused her young friend, Monica, whom she saw "as a kid" who needed to be saved. "I always saw her as a lost soul," she told the paper. "I believe she and the country will never understand that I believed this was in her best interest."

Ms Tripp also appeared yes: terday on the NBC Today programme, and will be on CNN's Larry King Live on Monday. Her media "relaunch" was the

surest sign that the 13-month scandal was drawing to a close.



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هكذامن الأعهار

Art forger convicted of 'brilliant' fraud



Republican a lost almost everything



Guilty: John Drewe (left) and John Myatt

A "CONSUMMATE and devious liar" was yesterday convicted of masterminding the biggest contemporary art fraud of the 20th century.

John Drewe, self-styled professor and nuclear physicist, plotted an international fraud that took in some of the art world's leading galleries and collectors. Among his victims were the Tate Gallery, Sotheby's, Christie's and the families of 20th century artists.

Drewe's activities were first revealed three years ago in an investigation by The Independent. Since then the paper has learnt that Drewe had previously passed information about art fraud to the police and that he had contacts in the Mafia.

He was convicted yesterday after a five-month trial of seven charges, including conspiracy to defraud. A co-defendant Daniel Stoakes, was acquitted.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Drewe, 50, hired John Myatt, an unknown artist, and encouraged him to fake works in the style of Ben Nicholson, Marc Chagall and Alberto Giacometti. Myatt used a mixture of household emulsion, lubricating jelly and the contents of a vacuum cleaner to "age" the paintings. Drewe added authenticity by making frames from old wood and signing

them with the artists' names. Drewe's scheme relied on creating histories or provenances for these paintings, and over a period of months, he set about substantially altering and supplementing Britain's art archives to include details of his non-existent "works" At one



BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

point, he even spent £20,000 to become a Fellow of the Tate

Gallery, allowing him access to its vast records which he set about changing. He also faked catalogues from non-existent exhibitions which had displayed the paintings. Although Drewe was

charged in connection with just nine paintings, police believe that he and Myatt produced up to 200 works over a 10-year period which were sold in the US, Middle East and Europe.

While Myatt was paid just £250 a time, Drewe sold the paintings for up to £100,000. Police believe he may have profited by up to £2m.

Detective Sergeant Jonathan Searle of the Metropolitan Police's organised crime group, said yesterday: "This is quite simply the biggest contemporary art fraud the 20th century has ever seen. It was brilliantly carried out."

But the case has also highlighted a number of failings in the security of many of Britain's galleries and auction houses. Both the Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum have since tightened their procedures.

One gallery owner said: "The trouble is that if the paintings are worth less than £100,000 no one bothers to check out their histories. They call themselves experts but they are just lazy."

Drewe, from Reigate, Surrey, and Myatt, 53, from Staffordshire, who had previously admitted his involvement, are to be sentenced on Monday.







Graham Sutherland's 'Somerset Mangham' (left) and 'Entrance to a Lane (below centre), and Ben Nicolson's 'Cortivallo, Lugano' (above centre). Their styles were conied by the forgery gang. Right: The forgers' version of 'Crucifixion' by Sutherland

Top galleries and collectors were duped

IT WAS HARD to say what was wrong, the way the paint had been applied or maybe the colours the artist had used. Whatever it was, the moment Leslie Waddington looked at the paintings he was unhappy.

The Dubuffet certainly looked the part but - well - Mr Waddington had not been an art dealer for as long as he had without learning a thing or two. And Jean Dubuffet had been a friend of his.

Within days Mr Waddington phoned a contact within the Art and Antiques squad of Scotland Yard to express his concerns about the paintings he had seen up for auction.

Unknown to Mr Waddington, his call in the summer of 1995 was to help crack one of the most ingenious art frauds

downfall of John Drewe, a brilliant but flawed criminal who "took an intellectual delight in fooling people".

The practise of copying expensive works of art and passing them off as the real thing is probably as old as art itself. But by creating provenances for his fakes. Drewe entered a new realm.

His plan was brilliant and effective. "He came to me to authenticate certain things. In the early days I probably did," admitted Sir Alan Bowness, a senior member of the Henry Moore Foundation. "They all had very good provenances. That is what was so clever."

Sir Alan should not feel too bad. Drewe's scam took in galleries, collectors and even some of the families of the of all time. It also lead to the artists he was imitating. Devi-

ous to the point of genius, when one dealer complained that a De Stael painting he had bought was an imitation, Drewe promptly gave him four sketches by Graham Sutherland as compensation. These also turned out to be fakes. The dealer kept the De Stael as a "£32,500 lesson".

Drewe was born John Cockett in Tonbridge, Kent, in February 1948, and grew up in Uckfield, Sussex, where the family lived in a farmhouse called Pleasant Farm. Little is known about his childhood but he left Bexleyheath Grammar School, aged 16, having gathered a handful of O-levels and took a job as a laboratory assistant with the Atomic Energy Authority. He left in 1967, having refused a

request that he study for fur-

ther examinations. Drewe evidence. Cross-examined in court by Drewe - who led his later to embellished his humown defence - Myatt said: "I ble position in Walter Mittyesque fashion, telling people was very much your creature. he was a nuclear physicist. I found you hypnotising, char-

Police have no record of him from then until 1980, when he started working as a parttime teacher at Channing School in Highgate, London. He also taught at Des Pardes House in Hampstead.

In the Spring of 1986 Drewe was reading Private Eye magazine when he came across an advert placed by an artist looking for commissions. It read: "Genuine Fakes. 19th and 20th Century painting done." Once Drewe met the artist - John Myatt - the pair formed an effective, but unequal, partnership.

When police caught up with the pair, Myatt turned Queen's ming, challenging."

Drewe charmed scores of people. Once, he recruited a neighbour, Clive Bellman, to sell paintings. Knowing Mr Bellman was Jewish, Drewe told him he was selling the works to fund research to finally destroy the revisionist theory of the Holocaust

Police inquiries were in their infancy when Mr Waddington called them, but Drewe was already known to them. Fourteen months earlier be had contacted the A&A squad offering information about the Mafia selling stolen paintings.

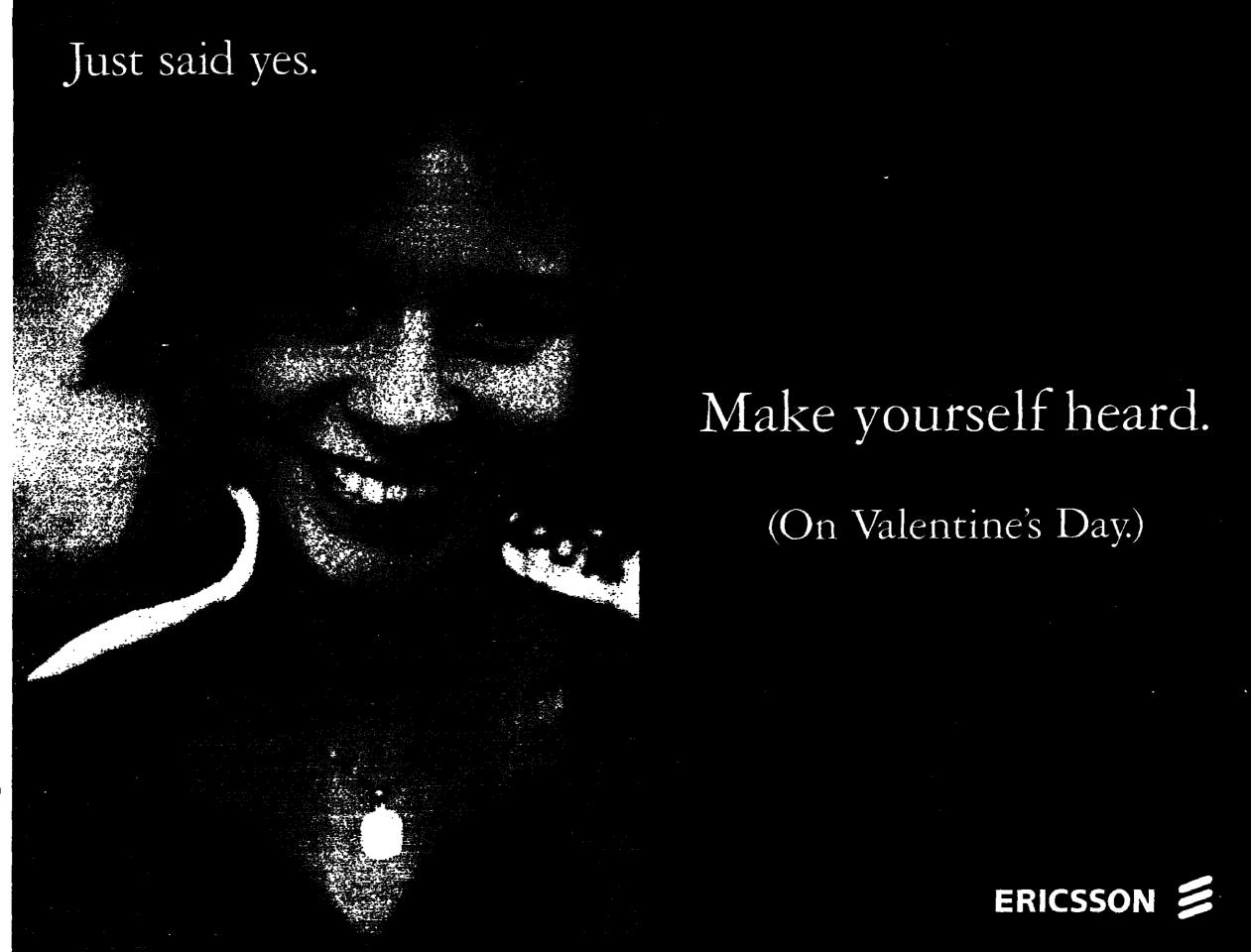
The officers met Drewe at the Battersea heliport, Lon-

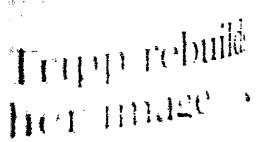
don, where he arrived by helicopter. He gave police information on three paintings. When detectives checked, it transpired that two - a De Pisis and De Chirico - were stolen. Officers remain convinced that Drewe had genuine

contacts within the Matia. Drewe's defence at the trial was that he was recruited to sell paintings to fund secret arms deals on behalf of a number of foreign governments, including South Africa's.

In creating false provenances for his paintings, Drewe altered - perhaps irretrievably - the archive material of many galleries. His actions have damaged records which help show whether paintings are genuine or, like the ones he sold, simply fakes.

ANDREW BUNCOMBE





I to find a

GM food harmed rats, says research

A GROUP of scientists warned By STEVE CONNOR of serious health dangers from Science Editor eating genetically modified (GM) food yesterday, citing unpublished research allegedly showing that GM potatoes have damaged laboratory rats.

The independent scientists plant toxins, who was forced to retire last year from his post at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen after prematurely releasing the results of his ex-Action television programme .

Twenty researchers from around the world have signed a memorandum condemning the way Dr Pusztai was treated by the Rowett Institute, which said the 68-year-old scientist had become "muddled" in fact involve genetically mod-

Dr Pusztai was suspended and his annual contract not renewed. He has since been told work on GM potatoes by his for-

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But yesterday Vyvyan Howard, a toxicologist from Liverpool University, released data from further experiments vigorously defended the work of carried out by Dr Pusztai Arpad Pusztai, an expert on which, said Dr Howard, supports the principal conclusion that genetically modified food can be harmful to health.

Dr Howard said that "transgenic" potatoes, which had an Leaflets handed to customers at the supermarket chain Iceland detailed the effects of genetically modified food periments to the World in added gene responsible for a plant toxin called a lectin, produced damaging effects on the immune systems and internal organs of the laboratory animals. "There is obviously something going on with this transgenic potato which is not just due to the lectins. We don't over an experiment that did not have an answer to that. It needs

further research," he said. Stanley Ewen, of the department of pathology at Aberdeen University, released preliminary results of his own experiments, which showed that animals fed on GM pota-

toes experienced the take-up of lectin proteins into the cells of their intestines. "It may be that Ronald Finn, past president in GM food a drug-delivery system has been created, deliver-

to," Dr Ewen said. Another supporter of Dr Pusztai, Professor Brian Goodwin, of Schumacher College in Dartington, Devon, said the latest results will strengthen support for an immediate moratorium on the growth of GM crops, a ban on patenting genes and an independent in-

ing something you didn't want

quiry into the use of genetic en"You can imagine a doomsday and were never intended for gineering by the food and agriscenario. If the immune system commercial production, nor gineering by the food and agricultural industries.

of the British Society of Allergy and Environmental Medicine, said Dr Pusztai's research raised serious concerns. "Dr Pusztai's results to date at the very least raise the suspicion that genetically modified potatoes may damage the immune system." If that happened, he said, the consequences of something like a flu epidemic could be extremely serious.

of the population was weakened, then the mortality would be increased many, many

Other scientists criticised Dr Pusztai's supporters for taking his research out of context. Professor Ray Baker, chief executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, said the potato experiments did not cast doubt on the safety of all GM food. "These potatoes were part of an experiment commercial production, nor are they available on the market" he said.

As the row over Dr Pusztai erupted, Tony Blair yesterday rejected calls for a moratorium on GM food and played down mounting concern. "There is no GM food that can be sold in this country without going through a very long regulatory process," he said on BBC radio. "Let's proceed on the basis of genuine scientific analysis and inquiry, and caution and not get the that had been deliberately

Philip James, director of the Rowett Institute, vigorously defended his decision to susthat the lectin expert had become confused over key experiments on GM potatoes. Dr James said that Dr Pusz-

tai had claimed in media interviews to have found ill-effects on rats fed with GM potatoes with a lectin called GNA - a protein derived from

he had mistaken these results for those on ordinary potatoes

Mark Chilvers

of another, highly toxic lectin pend Dr Pusztai on the grounds called Con A, which would never be used in human food. Dr James strongly denied that he had come under any

laced with high concentrations

political pressure to dismiss Dr Pusztai.

The environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth called on the Prime Minister

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Committee biased towards bio-firms'

MEMBERS OF the Government By Andrew Mullins committee that advises ministers on genetically modified food are so deeply involved in genetic research that they are unlikely to question it, a member of the committee said last you?" she asked.

Several members of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes have links to the biotechnology companies. while others are academics researching the subject.

Kate Venables, a senior lecand Lung Foundation, who was too narrow for it to address public concerns. "Scientists who are desperately excited by the idea of genetic modification are not going to be deflected from this as an interesting and

exiting research tool. "If companies have put miltions of pounds into research of AND FRAN ABRAMS

something or other then I suspect the Government is going to listen to them. Wouldn't

She was backed by other experts. Julie Shephard, of the Consumers' Association, was nominated by three organisations for a place on the committee but was rejected. There have been rumours that she Questions on Wednesday. was ruled out because of her

"I would not dream of acappointed to the committee in cusing anybody of acting for im-May last year, said its remit was proper reasons because of links with commercial interests. I don't think that happens. But I do think it happens in a more subtle way. You are hardly likely to question the fundamental assumptions about its safety if

whole career," she said.
With political pressure

turer at the National Heart sceptical views on the subject.

it would mean questioning your

mounting from biotechnology firms including the American corporation Monsanto, the Downing Street policy unit is now arguing that the spread of the foods in Britain is inevitable.

The view of Liz Lloyd, who has responsibility for the subject in the unit and who met Monsanto representatives last year, was apparent when Tony Blair ruled out a moratorium on the crops at Prime Minister's

continued to argue for a moratorium, Michael Meacher, looks increasingly isolated on the

subject. The pressure for full-scale production of the crops is not just coming from companies within Britain, though. As reported in The Independent on Sunday last year, President Bill Clinton phoned Mr Blair to argue that Britain should accept genetically modified food.

WHO SELLS WHAT

SAFEWAY Confirmed own-brand tomato purée contains GM tomatoes but refused to give any other details

MARKS & SPENCER Could not provide a list of GM products but said all own-brand foods with GM ngredients are labelled

TESCO Provided a comprehensive list of own-brand foods with GM ingredients, including Value soups and sausages, pies, fresh sauces

SAINSBURY'S Own-brand tomato purée

contains GM tomatoes. The store is currently labelling all own-label GM or GM derivative products. Examples are vegetarian bolognese sauce, soya mince, soya chunks,

ICELAND STORES Guarantees that all ownbrand foods produced after 1 May are GM-free

vegetarian moussaka

KWIKSAVE KwikSave No Frills bread

and cheese products HOUSEHOLD NAMES

Among products containing GM ingredients are: Pot

Noodle, Vesta Beef Risotto. Batchelor's Beanfeast. Godzilia pizza-filled skinless sausages, some flavours of Walkers crisps, some flavours of Smith's crisps, Frazzles, Bacon Fries

PROCESSED FOOD About 60 per cent of processed foods, such as pasta, pizza, baby foods, baby milk, contain GM soya. GM maize from the US may be present in soups, sauces, ready meals, curries, snacks and chewing gum. Soya derivatives, such as soya oil and lecithin, may be present in thousands of processed foods. No obligation to label

Two more shows accused of using bogus guests

By Paul McCann Media Editor

THE SCANDAL of hoaxers on so-called "confessional TV" chat shows widened yesterday after claims were made against two more shows.

It was claimed that the "boyfriend" of one guest on ITV's Trisha - presented by Trisha Goddard - was an actor she had met only the night before. Sharon Tolfers said that she and the actor, Anthony Noei, met at a railway station before travelling to the show's studios in Norwich.

Another guest, Eddie Wheeler, said he had appeared on the show with a woman posing as a "former girlfriend".

have fooled The Vanessa Show and the now defunct ITV pro- checked thoroughly - and



gramme The Time, The Place. United Productions - which makes Trisha for Anglia TV _ said it had been duped and not "colluded" in recruiting guests. It said that all the guests are

would be held "liable for any consequences if they are telling lies". The company also made The Time, The Place before it was scrapped.

The fresh allegations, made in The Mirror, came only a day after three members of the team behind BBC1's The Vanessa Show were suspended after allegations that "guests" were in fact recruited

from agencies. The daytime chatshow format came under attack from the broadcasting minister Janet Anderson, who said there should be a question mark over

the future of such programmes. Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer, said: "This undermines the whole integrity of the programmes, and makes a farce

Oscar nominee plays squeeze-box in pub

THERE ARE at least three reasons to admire the musician Stephen Warbeck apart from

his musicianship. One, he lives close to the Arsenal ground in north London and has no interest in football doesn't even pretend to be interested (jokes about his proximity to Arsenal, b-o-r-i-n-g and so on, as the particular explanation for this unfashionable ignorance would simply pass him by).

Two, he can play the accordion for pass-the-parcel at children's parties for an hour or so and always manage to avoid

"The Happy Wanderer". Three, he drives around his partner and three young children in a VW camper of such age and interior confusion that it might still be on the run to Kathmandu.

Often (a fourth reason for admiration) he pilots a tandem.

On Tuesday he was nominated for an Oscar. You probably won't have read about this. Every newspaper reported that Shakespeare in Love had 13 nominations, and then lost interest in the list after Gwyneth Paltrow. (As rivers of information, newspapers are drying up - the idea that people without access to the Internet will constitute an information underclass is beginning to be true). In fact, I wouldn't have known either about his nomination in the "original musical and comedy score" category had we not been neighbours who dropped off children at the

On Monday morning as we chatted on the pavement, I said how much we'd enjoyed Shakespeare in Love the previous night; "enjoyable" is the word that tends to be used about the film, as if being less enjoyable would make it finer

and worthier. Warbeck said he didn't think his music stood much chance of a nomination in the Academy Awards. The idea that it might had never occurred to me. Warbeck is such a wry and modest man and the Oscars, however absurd, seem to exist on a higher plane than the natural world; playtime for the Gods. The thought that they could reach down from their stretch limos in Hollywood and touch Warbeck on his tandem in Highbury was thrilling. If he was nominated - if he won! our street, his street, the launderette and takeaways in be-

NOTEBOOK



tween - all these would be suddenly blessed and their spirits kindled; a little touch of Harry

it as "Dickensian ethnic".

Some facts about Warbeck.

On stage, he was Guilden-Raquin's husband in Thérèse cidental themes and tunes.

Eventually his agent put it to him that he had to decide which he was, actor or musician, and he chose the latter. His big break came with the music for the Prime Suspect television series (directed by John Madden, the director of Shakespeare in Love, and a fellow nominee). Since then he's worked with Stephen Daldry at the Royal Court (An Inspector Calls) and scored the film Mrs Brown. He is also head of music at the Royal Shakespeare Company.



IAN JACK

in the night. When I went round to see

him on Wednesday evening. squeezing past the tandem in the hall, he looked, as usual, impressively domestic. His clarinet-playing partner, Sarah, was out at a jazz gig. He had a sleeping baby, Mathilda, on his knee and a book of poems by Pablo Neruda on the table. His living room is unlikely to feature in Hello! magazine. Too much evidence of living, jumbling happily across floors, shelves. chests, in fact over every flat surface, vertical and horizontal apart from the ceiling. People in Beverly Hills might think of

He's 45, has been playing instruments since the age of four, started a rock group at school with his friend Andrew Ranken (who later joined the Pogues), and then, after university, began a theatre career at Stratford East which as it went on became uncertainly divided between acting and music.

stern in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and Thérèse Roquin. Off stage, he was the man at the piano, composing in-

But all this is in a sense his private life. I had never



Stephen Warbeck, whose original score for 'Shakespeare in Love' has been nominated for an Oscar, at his home in Highbury Pete Millson

glimpsed it before. Publicly, he's the composer-accordionist in a nine-piece band called the Kippers that plays at folk festivals in the summer and London pubs for the rest of the year. Paul Bradley, who was Nigel in EastEnders, does the vocals. Andrew Ranken, the ex-Pogue, is on drums. Warbeck said that the name is actually hKippers, though the h is silent.

This bint of harmless late 60s surrealism provides some idea of the music, which is difficult to describe. It would be believable as 1920s dance-band stuff from Valparaiso, or as folk tunes from Baku. Warbeck said it owed a little to Kurt Weil, to klezmer, which is fast Jewish music on the clarinet, and to the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band. It was, he said, "light-hearted European, world silly music". In the Oscars, he has stiff

competition from Randy Newman (A Bug's Life) and Stephen Schwartz (The Prince of Egypt). As this is Schwartz's fifth nomination - he did The Lion King, Pocahontas, and The Hunchback of Notre Dame - the obvious money may be on Y2K: the year 2000, the so-

wins. He is looking forward so much to the clothes; and to the double who, when you nip out to the loo, takes your seat in the auditorium so that it never looks less than full. I hope he makes a speech about his mum and dad and the folks back home in Highbury.

Will it change him? You have to doubt it. Twelve years of Margaret Thatcher clearly had no success in that direction. In the meantime, Londoners can catch him and the Kippers at their next gig: the Weavers Arms, Newington Green Road. on 24 February. He's the one on the squeeze-box, not playing "The Happy Wanderer".

ACCORDING TO The New York Times this week, a "significant minority" of Americans are taking extreme measures to protect themselves against the coming TEOTWAWKI which will occur in Y2K. An

TEOTWAWKI: The End Of The World As We Know It.

him. Of course, I hope Warbeck called millennium bug (more properly, the millennium flaw), when many computers are expected to malfunction because they won't be able to read the date correctly. They may think - if I've got this right - that things still to happen have already happened or, when they

have happened, not happened. Opinion polls show that 10 per cent of Americans expect to withdraw most or all of their money from banks, while 17 per cent expect to buy either a generator or a wood-burning stove. Sales of survival rations are expected to boom. The but is still an intelligent distance

American Red Cross recommends: "Stock disaster supplies to last several days to a week: non-perishable foods. stored water, and an ample supply of medications ... be prepared to relocate to a shelter for warmth ... have plenty of flashlights to hand."

This seemed to me mockably dire and fearful. Then I came across a booklet called the "Y2K Citizen's Action Guide" which is published by the Utne Reader, a magazine that could certainly be said to be on the alternative side of American life from the bowie-knife, catchkill-eat thinking of American survivalism. The guide is larded with so many quotes from so many seemingly distinguished figures that I began to look at my cellar in a new light. "Failure to achieve compli-

ance will icopardise our way of life on this planet for some to come" (Arthur Gross, chief information officer, the Inland Revenue Service).

"I cannot be optimistic, and I am generally concerned about the possibility of power shortages" (Senator Robert Bennett, chairman of the Senate's

special committee on Y2K1. "Now the only hope is keeping the world economy from total deterioration" Jeffrey Garten, Dean, Yale School of Management).

"It's far too late, and things are far too bad, for pessimism' (Dee Hock, founder, Visa International)

More than 100 pages of advice follow, most of it detailed. Allow 20lb of brown rice or whole wheat per person per month, 15 grams of Vitamin C similarly, keep crackers crisp in metal containers. "Always prepare for the worst and hope for the best" is the overall philosophy and the tone is strangely

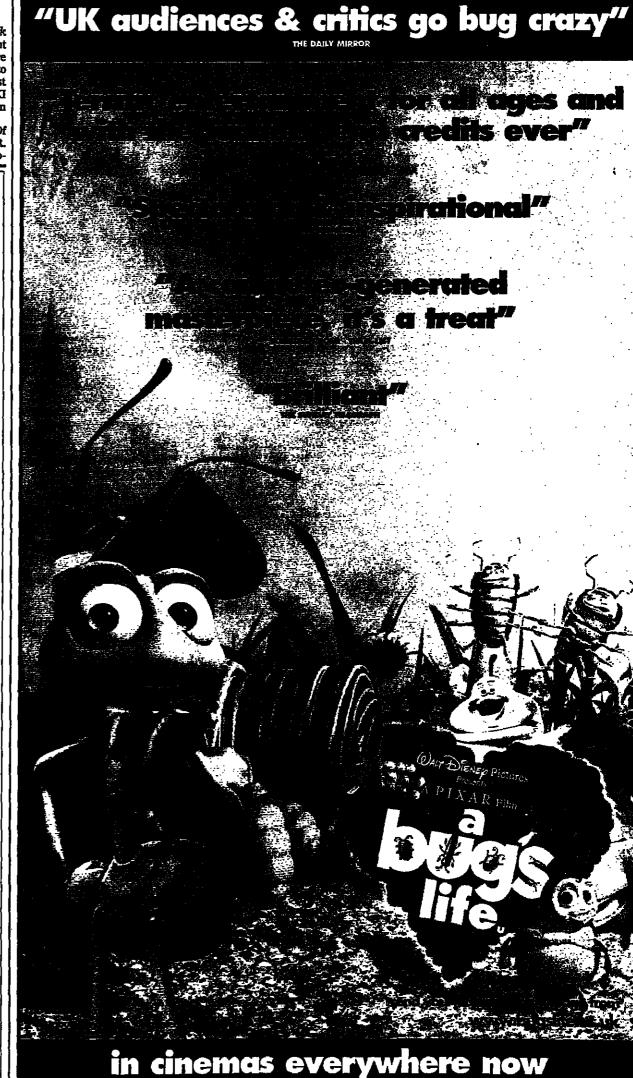
The coming crisis, the guide implies, may bring out the best in Americans. They will rediscover old virtues; neighbourliness, the civic spirit. It could do for Philadelphia what the Blitz did for Stepney.

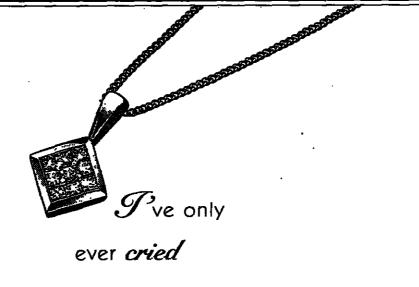
But perhaps one shouldn't be too sceptical. Peter de Jager, a technology consultant, is the writer widely credited with alerting the world to the problem when he published his essay, "Doomsday 2000", in a computer trade magazine more than five years ago.

In the current debate, he's not seen as an alarmist. In last month's Scientific American, he wrote in a balanced and admirably clear piece that he believed that severe disruptions would occur and last for about a month.

"This prediction might be optimistic; it assumes that people will have done what is necessary to minimise the number of single points of failure that could occur. Accomplishing that alone in the time remaining will require a Herculean effort unprecedented in the history of computers."

A few extra tins of baked beans then, not forgetting the

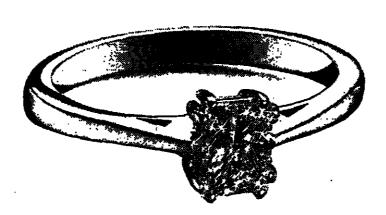




in public once.



Valentine's Day.



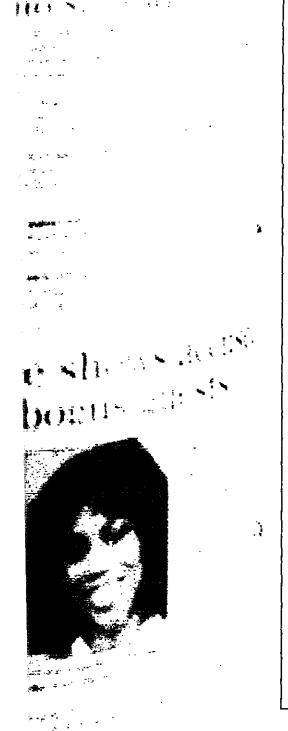
Ernest Jones

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Kosovo peace talks close to collapse

THE KOSOVO peace confer- By RUPERT CORNWELL ence was close to collapsing last night as the Serbs insisted they would not negotiate unless ethnic Albanian Kosovars signed a contested declaration.

Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, announced an emergency mission to Paris today. Her presence in France means there will be a full-scale ministerial meeting of the six world powers in the Contact Group to decide whether to go

talks. Importantly, Mrs Albright will also deliver a blunt message to the Serbs that unless they relent, they face the certainty of Nato bombing.

At a press conference in Paris yesterday, the Serbian President, Milan Milutinovic, declared flatly there would be no further progress unless the Albanians, like Belgrade, accepted the set of 10 principles

for a future referendum on independence for Kosovo, currently a province of Serbia.

Ignoring Western complaints that Belgrade's stalling has reduced the conference to a deadlock, Mr Milutinovic, an ally of the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, could not have been more blunt: "If they sign, we will continue the ne-

alise it will fall down." He accused the West of impeding the talks, and of bias towards the Albanian position. But there would be no walkout. "Why should we leave? We are sitting, Contact Group principles."

His words amounted to a direct challenge to Robin Cook, Britain's Foreign Secretary, adlock squarely on the Serb president. That, however, is

which they are resisting be-cause they contain no provision reach the foundations and re-time wasting by insisting the will not sign it. Yesterday, a key Albanians sign up to principles which, he said, both sides had in practice already agreed to by even attending the conference.

The Serbs are desperately keen on formal ratification of the document because it foresees Kosovo remaining part of the existing Yugoslavia, albeit with vastly increased autonomy, including its own police who placed the blame for the force, elected assembly and

aide of Ibrahim Rugova, their political leader, insisted there had to be a specific provision

blame for the stalemate, omens for success in Rambouillet are looking bleak. Nor are matters helped by latent divisions within the Contact Group - comprising France, Britain, Italy, Germany, the US and Russia which could explode into the

break down. While Washington is ada-

mant there must be air strikes against Belgrade if its obduracy blocks any deal, the Russians With both sides trading are equally adamantly opposed. Hubert Vedrine, the French Foreign Minister, has also expressed his country's misgivings about any unilateral use of force by Nato.

The stand-off over principles has meant that the mediators at Rambouillet, led by the US

hardly embarked on detailed bargaining over Kosovo's autonomy. During her meetings with the two sides, Mrs Al-bright will also spell out to Serbs and Albanians the key annexe to the proposed accord, calling for a drastic reduction in Yugoslav troop strength in Kosovo. This will reportedly fall from about 14,000 today to only 1,500, with the sole task of guarding the province's exter-



Some of the tanks that are off to Kosovo Sgt B Gamble

An army at home on the range

THE EBULLIENT, moustachioed sergeant was looking for volunteers. "Come on lads, I still need some bodies for the boat crew. Don't any of you want dishing his clipboard.

In the sub-zero temperatures, most of the soldiers taking a break in the "brew" tent seemed more interested in huddling round the warm tea urn as the heavy guns boomed outside. The fact that the sergeant was asking for men to accompany the regiment's tanks on a possible sea-trip to Kusovo showed just how far the plans for deployment had already gone. This was the scene earlier this week as The King's Royal Hussars (KRH), were going through live firing training on the Holine range in northern Germany, in expec-

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Defence Correspondent

After an announcement by George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, on Thursday, the tanks of KRH and the "heavy metal" equipment of the other lead units in the army's 4 Brigade will embark for the troubled Serbian province on Monday

their Challenger tanks, Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, and AS90 155mm guns are in the area when peace talks come to an end next week. A total of 8,000 British troops will be deployed only if a deal is agreed. The move is also being seen as a way of applying extra between the Serb and Kosovo- pretty excited about it. They see

tation of a sudden departure.

The decision will ensure that

ORK&KERRY

Albanian delegations at the

Those negotiators should have been at the range last week when the Challengers started to fire. Hearing, seeing and feeling the power from their 120mm guns is an experience to concentrate even the most wayward minds.

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Powe, was exuding a quiet confidence about the possible job that lies ahead. "We saw it coming, and had been thinking about it amongst ourselves for pressure for a settlement a while," he said. "The boys are

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it as an important task and are confident in their ability [to do] whatever is asked of them."

Even to get to the training ranges, however, had taken a huge effort. The regiment, and other elements of the British lead battle group, which will spearhead the planned Nato deployment of up to 30,000 troops, had received orders to

get ready only six days before. The latest Mark III tanks had to be scrounged from other KRH squadrons to make sure that those which are going were the best available. Extra spares had to be ordered up, while work on the tanks, which

spend most of their time idle in before. Recruitment problems hangars, went on day and night throughout last weekend.

Some of the problems give a good indication of how the Army is already struggling to meet its many commitments. The range time had to be "borrowed" from the German army, as cost constraints mean tanks usually fire live ammunition only once a year. Training that would normally take eight days

has been crammed into two. Most startling is the fact that of the 12 tank crews in A Squadron, which will be the first to go, half of the gunners will

and a high turnover of soldiers to fill other jobs meant that the new boys had previously trained only on simulators.

Staff Sergeant Mark Orr, as regimental gunnery sergeant, is the man directly responsible for making sure all the gunners can shoot straight. He conceded that the situation was far from ideal. "In the old days this certainly wasn't normal, but it is becoming normal now," he said, adding that the experience of the tank commanders would make up for any minor shortcomings. He has 21 years'

experience in tanks, including

service in the Gulf War. Sgt Orr said that finally getting the order to move had been a relief for the men, even though it meant working hard to catch up, and that the mood as a

whole was "pretty good". "Sure, spending six to eight months on a mountainside freezing your nuts off isn't anybody's idea of fun, and the separation from families will be painful," he said. "But most realise that this is a real job that has to be done, that is what they joined the Army for and that is what we get paid for This is where the taxpayer gets his

Back on the range, Major Richard Hannay, the A Squadron leader, watched as three guns went off in rapid from the training shells streaked towards the shared. moving target. In the middle distance dark earth spurted up against the snow, recording

the hits or near misses. Major Hannay said he was pleased at the way things were going but, talking about the probable role in Kosovo, he added: "I hope we won't be doing anything like this. If we are then something will have



Sgt Mark Orr in a Challenger tank at the Hohne training range in Germany. If British troops are sent to Kosovo it will, he says, 'be nobody's idea of fun' Sgt B Gomble

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IN BRIEF

Kray jail appeal rejected

CHARLIE KRAY, elder brother of the gangster twins Ronnie and Reggie, had his 12-year jail sentence for masterminding a £39m cocaine deal upheld by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Kray, 72, of Sanderstead, south-east London, was sentenced in June 1997 after being found guilty of supplying and offering to supply the drug.

Honeymoon air rage groom jailed

A NEWLYWED man who attacked crew on a flight to Gatwick from his honeymoon in Florida was jailed for 12 months yesterday by Chichester Crown Court. Gurdip Sangha, 23, from Sutton Coldfield, had to be tied down on the 1997 flight after his wife said she was leaving him for another man. He admitted endangering aircraft safety.

Substance abuse killed Lord Bristol

ORGAN FAILURE from long-term use of drugs and alcohol caused the death of the Marquess of Bristol, a coroner ruled yesterday. Lord Bristol, a registered drug addict who had served two jail terms for possession of drugs, died on 10 January at the age of 44.

Keep that aspidistra talking

MORE THAN seven million Britons talk to their plants, according to the results of a poll conducted for Baby Bio plant food. Sixteen per cent of respondents said they hummed, sang or talked to their houseplants.

Acas fails to stop Tube strike HOPES THAT next week's 48-hour strike on the London Underground might be called off were dashed yesterday when the conciliation service Acas said it could not find

Moderate miners vote for strike MEMBERS OF the moderate Union of Democratic Mineworkers have voted to take their first strike, at RJB Mining, over pay, the union announced yesterday.

common ground between management and the RMT union.

Match-fixing: three in court

court yesterday charged with conspiracy and criminal damage in connection with an alleged attempt to fix the result of a Premiership football match by sabotaging the

Chee Kew Ong, 49, a man-ager from Paddington, west London; Wai Yuen Liu, 37, a car salesman from Kensington. west London; and Eng Hwa

Lim, 35, an electronic engineer, also from Paddington, were all remanded in custody until 19 February at Horseferry Road magistrates' court.

floodlights.

THREE MEN appeared in By ANDREW WOODCOCK

money back."

officers from Scotland Yard's Organised Crime Squad near Charlton Athletic's ground in south-east London three days

Mr Ong and Mr Lim, both Malaysian nationals, and Mr Liu, from Hong Kong, said nothing during the 20-minute hearing, but listened to proceedings with the help of translation by an interpreter.

It was alleged that each of the men conspired with each other and with other people "to The men were arrested by pecuniary advantage, namely ger human life".

e opportunity to win money by betting in that you were able to determine the outcome of a match".

The second charge alleged that the three men "had electrical devices and other various electrical items intending, without lawful excuse to use the same or to cause or permit another to use the same to destroy or damage the electrical supply. concourse and safety lighting belonging to Charlton Athlet ic Football Club in a way which obtain for yourself or others a you knew was likely to endan-

Thumbsucking for dummies

SUCKING a dummy may be By JEREMY LAURANCE better for children than sucking a thumb, according to a leading

Dummies promote a greater

flow of saliva than thumbs or fingers, which helps to prevent tooth decay (provided they are not dipped in juice or honey), and are less likely to cause deformity because children tend to give up dummies sooner, before the development of the adult teeth. Thumb-sucking common than thumb-sucking in

Health Editor

tends to persist beyond when the adult teeth have started to teeth (protruding incisors), or other problems depending on

which finger is sucked. Dr Ronnie Levine, scientific adviser to the Health Education Authority, says the sucking of dummies is far more

babies but declines rapidly with age and is rare over the age of three. Thumb or finger-sucking is less common in babies but more common after 18 months develop, and can lead to buck and more persistent than dummy-sucking. Four out of ten thumb-suckers still do it at the

age of nine, Writing in today's edition of the British Dental Journal, Dr Levine says 95 per cent of children indulge in what scientists call non-nutritive sucking.

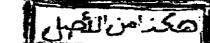
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collapse

Hall and Stoppard unveil rival to Arts Council



SOME OF Britain's best-known By DAVID LISTER theatrical figures have set up Arts News Editor a rival arts council to monito and draw attention to the Government's treatment of the

Sir Peter Hall revealed the at the Laurence Olivier Awards, where he was receiving a special award for his lifetime contribution to theatre.

He said he would be chairing the council, which was set up this week. The playwrights Sir Tom Stoppard and Harold Pinter will be on it, as will Sir Harrison Birtwistle, the composer. Sir Peter said the body would feed the press with information and would be a place for arts lovers among the public to make known their dissatisfaction with the Government and the funding bodies.

The awards are one of the high points of the theatrical calendar and vesterday's ceremony at the National's Olivier Theatre in London was attended by the Hollywood star Kevin Spacey, who won the Best Actor Award for his role in The Iceman Cometh. The

play also won Best Director for

Howard Davies. But Sir Peter stole the show with a stinging attack on the existence of the body yesterday Government, much to the discomfort of Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, who sat unsmiling in the audience.

Sir Peter said: "There is a passionate, passionate group of people who are worried about the state of the arts. They are artists and they are saying what has happened to the Arts Council? At the moment the Government announces new money but at the other end it is not there. That means the new money has been spent on management consultants and feasibility studies. I still don't think the Government understands the importance of the

"We are desperately apathetic and stupid about our greatest resources, and one of them is the arts."

Sir Peter has had his re-



Spacey: 'Overwhelmed' at being best actor

turned down for financial assistance to run the Old Vic theatre in London and he is spending six months directing plays in America.

Mr Smith said later: "Peter Hall has ignored what has happened in the past year. I will be very interested to hear from him and his secretive body. We have an Arts Council quest to the Arts Council that is full of artists and an Arts happy as Larry to be here."

of halving the number of staff. So it cannot be called overbureaucratic."

The Best Actress went to Eileen Atkins for her performance in The Unexpected Man. The National Theatre's production of Oklahoma! picked up four awards - Best Musical, Best Supporting Performance in a Musical for Shuler Hensley, Best Choreographer for Susan Stroman and Best Set Designer for An-

thony Ward. Best New Comedy was Terry Johnson's Cleo, Camping. Emmanuelle and Dick. Brendan Coyle won Best Supporting Performance for The Weir and Sophie Thompson was Best Actress in a Musical for Into the Woods. Kat and the Kings was Best New Musical.

Kevin Spacey said he was overwhelmed to receive his award from Lady Olivier, the actress Joan Plowright, Lady Olivier sparked laughter when, referring to her late husband, she said: "If I can put a new spin on an old phrase, I'm as



issue new £20 notes because counterfeiters are flooding the market with fake currency.

The new notes - on which the figure of Michael Faraday will be replaced by Edward Elgar - are due to be available from May. A range of extra security features will be included in the huge operation, which will result in the replacement of notes worth £10bn. They will also bear a special security motif for people to check whether they have a forgery.

The extent of the counter by a recent police operation against a gang of forgers who were caught preparing to print high-quality £20 notes with a face value of more than £2m on an industrial estate in Kent. The counterfeiters, who are understood to have been bankrolled by the notorious London criminal outfit, the Adams family, had successfully carried out a test run and distributed £100,000 of notes throughout the country. Detectives say that the £20 note is most frequently forged because the smaller denominations are not worth enough, while the £50 note attracts too much scrutiny. Forgers can use computer technology and advanced printing techniques to produce in- for 30 months, helped Williams creasingly good copies of and provided some of the banknotes. Of the 1,361 million notes printed last year, 349 mil- 37, who has yet to be senlion were £20. They now make up nearly half of the £24bn of notes in circulation. The Bank of England estimates that the total value of forged notes is less

of counterfeit notes last year. counterfeit proof note the Bank tact with the underworld. has produced. The face of Elgar will be on the back, alongside

London flat where she was kept as a domestic slave by a wealthy

Kuwaiti family has been award-

ing and quite disgraceful man-

al-Savegh. "I've heard a story

which would seem almost in-

credible to have occurred in

ed £77,988 damages.

THE BANK of England is to By JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

> an illustration of Worcester Cathedral, the city where the composer was born. The new note is expected to replace the old one completely by the end of 2002. The police have carried out a series of operations against major counterfeiting gangs in the past year. One of the top-level outfits is due to be sentenced on Monday.

In a joint operation by the National Crime Squad and the feiting problem was illustrated Service, five men were caught running an illegal money printing factory in Kent.

During Operation Rotary police recovered printing and computer equipment, and enough ink and paper to make counterfeit £20 notes worth £2.1m. The gang had already produced and distributed £100,000 worth, while a further £10,000 was waiting for collection. Police described the counterfeit notes as being very high quality and the forgers as "top of the line". Each member of the team

was chosen for his special skills, Simon Williams, 40, was a printer and was jailed for three years yesterday. Frederick Churchill, 61, who was jailed forgery equipment, Mark Field. tenced, was a computer expert who helped to design and copy the notes. Robert St John, 37, supplied the paper used for the notes and was jailed for 18 than £240m. Police seized £6.1m months, and Jeffrey Sullivan, 59, who received a three-year The new £20 will be the most prison sentence, was the con-

> Leading article. Review, page 3

Mrs Jayasekera's dawn es-

Mrs Jayasekera, who came

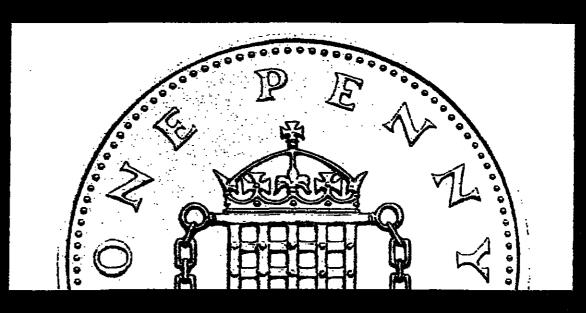
sor's job with Mr Sayegh, severely damaged her ankle in

the fall. She also suffers post-

cape in 1991 from a ninth-floor

flat came after 37 days of working without time off, any pay, or

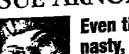
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London in the Nineties... She traumatic stress disorder. **SUE ARNOLD**

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Even the sheep turned nasty, demanding free champagne WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 5

Woman 'slave' wins

A YOUNG woman who fell three was treated as a domestic

Mr Justice Morland, at the a chance to go out. She was fed High Court in London on Thurs- on leftovers, made to sleep on day, said Surrethra Jayasekera, the floor, repeatedly kicked and 33, was treated in a "humiliat-

ner" by Jaafar and Khaleed from Sri Lanka for a supervi-

£78,000 damages

floors uving to escape from a slave," he said.

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STORES





Nick Ryman, Hugh's father, and Château Jaubertie, which is for sale Putrick Eugur

Ryman, king of wine, goes bottoms up

THE GOLDEN boy of Britain's BY LOUISE JURY AND wine industry is being forced to sell the £2m cháteau where he grew up to fend off a growing list of creditors who are threatening the future of his business.

Hugh Ryman, the son of the stationery chain millionaire Nick Ryman, is widely acknowledged as having transformed wine-making worldwide with a team of young Australian winemakers using the latest technological expertise in vineyards from France to South Africa. But the man who supplies more than two million bottles a year to British supermarkets and off-licences admitted yesterday that financial mismanagement has left

him with serious debts. He must sell Cháteau Jaubertie, in the Bergerac area of south-west France, to pay creditors. He said he had a buver and a sale could be completed within weeks, although

SILHOUETTED AGAINST a dark

background with a wine

glass to his nose, Hugh

Ryman features in the

flying winemakers".

of it the perfect English

always stood out from the

crowd of mostly Australians

gentleman, Ryman has

Oxford Wine Companion as

one of the more celebrated

Tail, charming, on the face

MARTIN ISARK

on the market for two years. But the sale means the end of a dream begun by Hugh's fa-ther of beating the French at their own game of producing award-winning wines at the 16th-century château. Nick Ryman bought the château after the Ryman chain was sold to the Burton group in 1972 for £8m. He sold it to a consor-

tium, including his son, in 1994.

the château has already been

Hugh Ryman has become one of the best-known names in Britain's wine industry because of the way he has helped to revolutionise the quality of everyday drinking wine. But documents seen by The Independent suggest a catalogue of debts going back several years. A number of winemakers say they have not been paid for work carried out as long ago as

public relations company, R and R Teamwork, and transport company, Torchrise, parted company from him amid financial wrangles.

Some bond-holders who

invested in Château Jaubertie when Nick Ryman began the family's winery in the early Seventies now fear they will never see their stake money again. Sue Whitley, a publisher and bond-holder since she invested £1,500 15 years ago, said: "One gets increasingly nervous that one isn't going to get one's stake money back."

Neither have the bondholders, who number more than 300, yet received their annual consignment of wine each was promised in return for their investment. The 1998 wine was due to arrive next Monday but will now not be available until March. Last year's consignment was impounded by

Hugh Ryman is selling his £2m château to pay off a catalogue of debts Customs and Excise in a dis- last October and won judgpute over duty and bondholders only received their cases if they paid to have the wine released. Mrs Whitley said that over the years she had

received her money's worth in

wine. But more recent bond-

holders, encouraged to join by

early enthusiasts like herself,

had paid a bigger stake and still not received their supplies. Winemakers, too, have suffered. Josephine Horn, 25, worked for Mr Ryman in France for three months two years ago. After continual prob-

ment against him. She said this week, from her new job in Australia that she had not received the outstanding money - more than £3,000 - and she owed significant sums to lawyers in fees. Another winemaker, Paul

Dunnewyk, claims he is owed two and a half months' wages and his travel expenses for working in Moldova in 1996, a sum of about £5,000.

"Under no circumstances would I work for Hugh Ryman again, nor would I recommend lems over pay, she took Mr the experience to other wine-Ryman to court in Bordeaux makers," he said.

These debts were unknown owns wine shops including to many in the trade until the Bottoms Up, have also held talks with Mr Ryman. end of last year when the wine writer Jim Budd circulated de-The problems are undertails to supermarkets and offlicences. One senior wine buyer stood to have increasingly for a supermarket chain said it

Ryman. "I would give him at least a year before we consider what we were going to do, but we don't really want to deal with people who don't pay their workers. He's not getting rich. hall in June 1996. He's trying to keep the balls in the air so that in the end every-

body is all right." Representatives of First Quench, the company that

had raised the matter with Mr

Threshers, Victoria Wine and

alarmed Nick Ryman, who resigned from the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers after months of delays in settling the bill for a wine-tasting hosted by his son in the livery company Hugh Ryman, 37, said yes-

terday: "We do have debts." but denied owing all the money claimed. There had been poor financial administration in the past, but he had cut overheads by £450,000 a year and the company was now in better shape Asked whether he would go bankrupt, he said it depended whether a campaign against him meant he did no business. "It can always happen," he said. But he was confident the château could be sold because

he intended changing the bondholders into shareholders. which made it more attractive to potential buyers. He said the sale of the chateau would generate enough revenue - about a third of the sale price - to pay off the debtors who were causing the problems.

STAR OF 'THE FLYING WINEMAKERS'

and New Zealanders who descend on Europe's vineyards to make wine at

With a nose for sniffing out under-achieving regions and using the technical skills of antipodean winemakers. Ryman has built a worldwide winemaking business based

harvest time.

on good value wines tailormade to supermarkets and off-licences. I first came across him

breezing into Moldova in 1991, where he signed up the Hinesti winery as a partner producing cheap but not particularly cheerful reds and whites for the British

market. At that time, he was already starting to make a name for himself with a palatable if unpronounceable £3.49 Hungarian Chardonnay from Gyongyos.

Despite the flying winemaker tag, Ryman is grounded for much of the time. In 1990 he bought

land at Cave du Casse, near Carcassonne, in the south of France and turned the shed into a modern winery complete with glistening stainless steel tank farm and

new oak barrels. "The Dump" as it was affectionately known, turns out crisply refreshing

STANDARD LIFE BANK"

Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay as well as an the Languedoc, Ryman attractive Cabernet Sauvignon. Ryman has made no secret of the fact that, to keep the price down, the Chardonnay was fermented using oak chips, a classic Australian technique

branched out into more adventurous styles, making not only good quality Chardonnay but an attractive Rousssanne and Viegnier and a red made from ancient, local Carignan vines. frowned upon by the French. He set up projects in

With the 1995 vintage in expertise with Sauvignon Blanc to good effect. "Possibly the best wine I have ever made," he says of the 1995 Jacana Pinotage Reserve produced in South Africa, which won a trophy and gold medal at the 1997 International Wine Challenge. ANTHONY ROSE

Spain, and at Marques at

Riscal in Rueda, he used his

WEEKEND **Fantastic** winter rates



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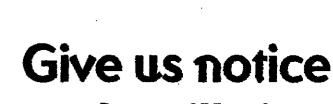
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Faint odour of a book being Cooked

IT WAS a bad week for the Foreign Office chief mandarin Sir John .Kerr, the principal casualty of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee report, which concluded he was deemed to have "failed in his duties to ministers".

But the lingering suspicion among most Tory MPs was that Sir John was the fall guy for Robin Cook and they are determined not to let the matter rest.

Former Tory Foreign Office ministers who worked closely with Sir John when he was the UK representative at the European Commission, briefing ministers during the negotiations on the Maastricht treaty, simply do not believe that he is capable of such incompetence.

The Government's determination to obfuscate and pre-empt the committee's early proceedings with its own internal inquiry lends credibility to this suspicion. For once, Michael Howard's relentless and forensic skills as a lawyer may yet uncover the possibility that Sir John has been less than fairly treated by Mr Cook.

The definition of diplomats representing the Foreign Office in previous centuries was based on a premise that "a diplomat is an honest man paid to go abroad to lie for his country". While there is no evidence to support the suggestion that Sir John may have gone to the Select Committee to lie for his Foreign Secretary: some Tory MPs think that he may well have gone under orders to withhold all the truth.

Mr Cook spent the week well out of the way abroad leaving Tony Blair to denounce the report before it had been officially published. But the illogical position of ministers in refusing to accept its findings or to the Falklands, Hong Kong and

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THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER MICHAEL BROWN

even contemplate taking further action suggests that there is a relentless determination to keep the lid firmly closed on this affair. Sir John is probably too hon-ourable a fellow to publish his mem-

oirs but ministers must pray that he has never kept a diary.
Tories should use one of their Opposition Days to secure a debate on the report and ensure that every former Foreign Office minister on

their side, beginning with John Major, nails the Foreign Secretary. More trouble for the Foreign Office came with the flare-up over Gibraltar. Here ministers may be on safer ground in blaming officials. Mandarins down the years have hated the last vestiges of empire in

Gibraltar, which have got in the way of their pursuit of friendly relations with Argentina, China and Spain.

The early-warning signal of an encouragement to sell-out comes when the Foreign Office surreptitiously uses the language of the aggressor in formal papers. Michael Fallon (C. Sevenoaks) in a parliamentary question two days before the latest incident, was prescient when he asked the Foreign Office minister Joyce Quin when the Bay of Gibraltar was first described as the Bay of Algeciras in a paper laid before Parliament? Ms Quin replied: "I understand that both terms have been used in public documents in the past."

Echoes of the Falklands are being felt in Gibraltar by the Governor, Sir Richard Luce, who will be remembering with pain his resignation from the Thatcher government as a Foreign Office minister at the start of the Falklands crisis in 1982.

William Hague's waste of time seeking advice and electoral solace in North America looks like turning into a PR disaster. With criticism for accepting a donation for the trip from a tax exile swirling about his ears he is merely highlighting the difficulties of being recognised. Day one resulted in bemused Harlem residents not knowing who he was and leading detractors to dub him "Hague the Harlem Globetrotter". Governor George W Bush of Texas was looking forward to Mr Hague's visit under the mistaken impression that he was the former US Secre-

tary of State, Al Haig. My advice is to stay at home and take the splendidly objective Labour MP. Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway), out to a decent lunch. Mr Marshall-Andrews, who seems to



Sir John Kerr: Tories say he is the fall guy for Robin Cook

have a soft spot for Mr Hague, genuinely believes in good, effective opposition to Mr Blair - providing decent quantities of it himself.

As a barrister, he believes Mr Hague is on the right track but spoils his Commons performances at Question Time by adding too many comments to the questions. Mr Hague would then be following a fine tradition of former Tory leaders taking advice from their opponents. Harold Macmillan said Lloyd George gave him the best advice when he was a young MP - stick to one point or one question.

Tony Benn was in exuberant and impish mood after a week in which he was feted by fellow parliamentarians. First he attended an unveiling of a portrait of himself in the Parliament Street office block of MPs. Afterwards he attended the House Magazine/Channel 4 "Oscars" to receive the Speechmaker of the Year award from the Speak-

er, Betty Boothroyd. As befits a true democrat the award was decided on the votes of fellow MPs from all parties. To general approbation, Mr Benn said: "To catch the Speaker's eye is one thing to do it with the approval of the House of Commons is unheard of." During the proceedings Mr Benn

spied Charlie Whelan, whom he had never met. But he courteously declined an offer to be introduced. "No thank you, I once met Gordon Brown and that was quite sufficient." Taken more seriously than ever

before, MPs on all sides are beginning to warm to Mr Benn's latest proposal contained in a Bill he is shortly to present to the Commons. transferring the crown prerogatives exercised by the Prime Minister over to the control of Parliament. Most prime ministerial power is not actually accountable to Parliament as it is exercised on behalf of the sovereign. Mr Benn thinks that his Bill is the most practical way of halting the slide to a presidential system of government. Alastair Campbell may be cele-

brating his suggestion that politicians be allowed to broadcast their views, unedited, without interpretation by journalists or interruptions by rude interviewers. But he could not have bargained for the response by the Labour MP Paul Flynn (Newport West), who yesterday took Mr Campbell at his word and held a press conference in Newport to launch the most comprehensive website of any MP. Already containing over 500 pages, Mr Flynn promises to add 2,000 words

For political anoraks, programme researchers and journalists Mr Flynn offers a large collation of political anecdotes entitled "Tales of the Terrace". With access links to the websites of the House of Commons, the Labour Party, the Italian Radical Party and even the convicted drug dealer Howard Marks,

Mr Flynn offers a completely unedited political dossier giving Mr Blair's enemies a ready-made opportunity for mischief-making.

For ease of reference Mr Flynn's views on fellow politicians are indexed into two categories: "Turkeys" or "Heroes". For weekend fun call www.paulflynn.co.uk. Check to see whether Mr Campbell is a turkey and why.

Theresa May (C, Maidenhead), Lembit Opik (LD, Montgomeryshire) and Stephen Twigg (Lab, Enfield Southgate) were nominated at the House Magazine/ Channel 4 ceremony for the Rising Star award but were beaten by Oona King (Lab, Bethnal Green & Bow). Maybe they still have work to do on their constituency profiles. Some Maidenhead electors, shown a selection of famous faces, thought Patricia Routledge was their MP. Constituents in Montgomeryshire thought the picture they were shown of the computer entrepreneur Bill Gates was Mr Opik while Southgate voters, when asked to identify Stephen Twigg, pointed to the photo of Michael Portillo. The apparent snub by the

African National Congress after this newspaper's revelations that Peter Mandelson was expecting to provide advice on election strategy in South Africa means it is back to the drawing board on how to fill his time when he is not mending cracked pavements in Hartlepool. The red carpet appeared to be rolled out for him this week when he made a regal visit to Labour Party HQ at Millbank Tower with the party general secretary. Margaret McDonough. Is he about to return to the dark shadows once







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UK and Spain agree to talks on Gibraltar

BRITAIN AND Spain agreed By Paul Waugh and yesterday to hold emergency talks on the deepening crisis in Gibraltar after Madrid claimed that the territory was a "ridiculous" royal colony.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will meet his Spanish counterpart, Abel Matutes, next Sunday to head off what is developing into the biggest diplomatic storm between the two countries in decades.

The meeting follows days of rising tension, and even calls from some MPs for British gunboats to be sent, after Spain decided to increase border restrictions in a dispute over Gibraltar's fishing rights. The prospect of a temporar

truce emerged after Madrid backed away from earlier threats to refuse to recognise Gibraltar driving licences or to block flights to the rock that pass over Spanish air space. The Foreign Office revealed

sterday that Mr Matutes had backed away from the threatened bans during an hour-long phone call with Mr Cook on Thursday evening. Mr Cook said that the best

way forward must be first to "calm the situation" and then to discuss the underlying issues are unacceptable," he said.

rationally. "I made it clear in my conversation with the Spanish Foreign Minister that the threats made earlier this week "Britain and Spain have a very good relationship but it has

to be based on a clear under-

standing that the interests of

the people of Gibraltar and the

ELIZABETH NASH in Gibraltar

consent of the people of Gibraltar are paramount." Mr Cook and Mr Matutes will

hold bilateral talks in Brussels on 21 February before a general meeting of European Union foreign ministers. The Foreign Office said Mr Cook had made clear the UK's concern that the Spanish authorities had tightened border controls around the territory, causing long delays for travellers.

The move to calm the situation emerged after the Spanish Ambassador to Britain, Alberto Aza, said the only solution to the crisis was to end Gibraltar's status as a colony.

He told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme: "The dispute is ridiculous - as ridiculous as the status of Gibraltar being a royal colony in the 20th or 21st century in Europe. The only thing to be blamed for the difficulties there is the status Gibraltar is now enjoying.

"The Gibraltarians have the best of both ways. They have a special status on taxation, Customs... and they want to have freedom of movement, which is impossible."

The Foreign Office minister Joyce Quin has already warned that the Government would raise with the European Commission President, Jacques

Santer, the threats by Madrid. In Gibraltar yesterday, the atmosphere among the locals was one of resigned indignation as they were held up in threehour border queues by the Spanish authorities.

"It's the old Francoist habits showing through," said Abraham Levy, a Gibraltarian who was stuck with his wife, Mary, in a queue four lanes wide, waiting to cross into Spain.

Mr Levy, who runs a real estate business on the Rock, has a Gibraltar-registered car and a Gibraltar driving licence, or rather, he said, "a European Union passport issued in Gibraltar". He hoped this would satisfy Spanish border guards who were reportedly turning away Gibraltar licence-holders or, according to one rumour, extracting a 20,000 peseta (£85) fine. 'It's such a pity because Spain is lovely, we're Latins like they are, but they're rubbing us up the wrong way." he said.

When asked if such links, not to mention geography, make it sensible for Gibraltar to join Spain eventually, he said: "Ask in La Linea if they want to be Gibraltarian. Ask in Barcelona if they want to be French. We're entitled to choose what we want to be. Many of us favour dialogue, but Madrid won't con-

vince us this way." Why, knowing yesterday's rueue would be a nightmare, were they making the crossing? Mrs Levy said: "We've got a house in Estepona along the costa where my daughter lives,

animals to care for. "The other week the pond had dried up and all the fish had died. I'd like to send those dead fish to Abel Matutes."

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Treasures looted by Nazis returned to Rothschilds



THE AUSTRIAN government By ADAM LEBOR has announced that 250 art objects stolen by the Nazis from the Rothschild family will be returned.

The news comes as the New York-based World Jewish Congress said that artworks stolen by the Nazis are on display in Paris at the presidential palace. the Prime Minister's home and the Turkish embassy.

The Rothschild works include 31 paintings, three by the Dutch master Franz Hals, as well as antique musical instruments and weapons, carpets, globes and navigation instruments. They belonged to Alphonse and Clarice Rothschild and Louis Rothschild. who were allowed to fiee Nazioccupied Austria on condition that they left their art behind. The Hals paintings, includ-

ing Portrait of Tieleman Roosterman, are among 22 pieces owned by the Rothschilds in the Austrian Art History Museum.

Bettina Looram-Rothschild. daughter of Alphonse and Clarice, said: "I still cannot

in Budapest

works are being returned. It is

a wonderful feeling." The plundering of the Rothschild palace in Vienna was recorded by the American correspondent William Shirer, who lived next door, in his book The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: "I myself, from our apartment in Plossigasse, watched squads of SS men carting off silver, tapestries, paintings and other loot from the palace," he said.

More than 50 years after the defeat of the Third Reich, governments are keen to close what has been called the last chapter of the Holocaust, Last November dozens of countries met in Washington for a conference on looted assets, to try to disentangle the web of competing ownershipclaims across the world.

The decision to return part of the Rothschild collection shows that Austria, like Switzerland, is facing up to its ambiguous role in regard to nexed by Germany in 1938, has for decades proclaimed itself the first victim of the Nazis, although the arrival of German forces in Vienna was welcomed by thousands of cheering

"Today's decision is an important part of the Republic's new self-image. We show a bit of justice with these restitutions. With it, Austria signals it is coming to terms with its history," said the Culture Minister, Elisabeth Gehrer.

It was only last year, after controversy over Switzerland's economic collaboration with the Third Reich, that Austria nassed a law that created a legal basis for returning loot-

The Nazis looted some 15,000 works of art from France, which were returned after the war. About 13,000 were auctioned off. The rest vere placed in museums while the government acted as temporary custodian. Just as in Austria, that "temporary" custodianship lasted for decades. until international pressure

has placed an inventory of those 2,000 artworks on the Internet. Elan Steinberg, of the World Jewish Congress, said that a recently published interim report of the official Matteoli commission, which is investigating the issue. showed the location of some of

the 2,000 pieces. Steinberg said two Louis XIV chairs and other pieces, including oriental rugs, were in the Prime Minister's residence, and a leather-covered

Elysée presidential palace. The artworks listed on the Internet include 18 paintings by Renoin 12 by Monet, 9 by Degas, 1 by Picasso and 1 by

medallion box was in the

Rembrandt. The Bathers, by Cezanne, now in the Musee d'Orsay, was probably stolen from a Jewish collector by Nazi col-

laborators, Steinberg said. During the war many French art dealers made handsome profits from buying art collections on the cheap from Jews desperate to flee, before selling them on to the Nazis.

US plans to host Ethiopia peace bid

BOTH ETHIOPIA and Eritrea continue to reject calls by the UN Security Council for an immediate cessation of hostilities, although there has been a significant halt in heavy fighting for the past few days. On Friday, the Ethiopian government asked its people to celebrate military victories on the front line, claiming to have pushed back Eritrean forces. But Eritrea has similarly claimed initial victory, widely publishing pictures from its defensive positions in the trenches.

ated space for a renewed diplomatic effort, with the US reportedly planning to send representatives from Washwords remains intense. Eritrea accused Ethiopia yesterday of shelling on villages near the dis- by Ethiopia. puted town of Zalambessa, a centre of fighting in their new border war. Ethiopia said it was gaining ground and would not stop fighting until it regained the contested territory.

ınd Spai

e to talks

ibraltar

Both sides claim the other is responsible for starting the con- are in the classroom. flict, although Ethiopia recently accepted it broke the air moratorium last Friday, and apologised for the death of civilians in a bombing raid on Tuesday. Eritrea refuses to withdraw vember, under the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

A special UN representative, Mohamed Sahnoun, warned this week - having returned from fruitless talks with the two leadfirst "hi-tech war". Both sides years ago.

By LUCY HANNAN in Asmara

amount of sophisticated weaponry, making a mockery of the arms embargo threatened by the international community.

Although the guns are quiet, there is an uneasy wait for war in the Eritrean capital. It is seen as inevitable. Windows in some offices have been covered with a shatter-proof lining; nonessential international staff are being evacuated; and the US ing for all Americans to get out of the two capitals. Two US warships with about 1,500 marines, helicopters and jets, ington next week. The battle of are on stand-by off the Horn of Africa. "It's 50-50," said one diplomat, reflecting speculakilling a dozen civilians in tion over an imminent air strike

The Eritreans themselves after a 30-year struggle for independence - are so acclimatised to war that its threat almost ensures a sense of normality. Traffic continues, businesses stay open and children

But up to 50km from the southern front-line in Badme, Tsoronna and Zel Ambessa, civilians are fleeing with their goats, donkeys and camels. For some, it is too late. In Mendefrom the 1,000 sq km disputed fra Hospital, eight-year-old area of land, a crucial condition Tigist Hagos is supported on of a brokered peace plan in No- the bed by her father-her legs and hands ripped by shrapnel. She was at a wedding in Adi Quale when it was bombarded.

She is one of the new generation of war-disabled citizens in a country that celebrated peace ers - that Africa was facing its and independence only six

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A FORMER NURSE who claimed her plastic surgeon failed to warn her that her breast implants might leak has been convicted of killing him at his office. Theresa Ramirez, 46, was found guilty in San Jose, California, of first-degree

murder in the death of Michael Tavis, 53, who performed breast implant surgery on her after a mastectomy. Avalanche's 12th victim discovered RESCUERS YESTERDAY dug out the body of a 15-year-old boy, the 12th victim of the avalanche which engulfed 18 chalets in France's Mont Blanc region on Tuesday.

Rescuers said all missing people had now been accounted

IN BRIEF

Surgeon shot over leaky implants

for and they were not searching for further victims. Crusading mayor quits in Kenya

NAJIB BALALA, the mayor who cleaned up the Kenyan city of Mombasa and worked to bring tourists back to the Indian Ocean port, resigned, claiming opponents were frustrating his work. He said he had received death threats from a politician close to President Daniel arap Moi.

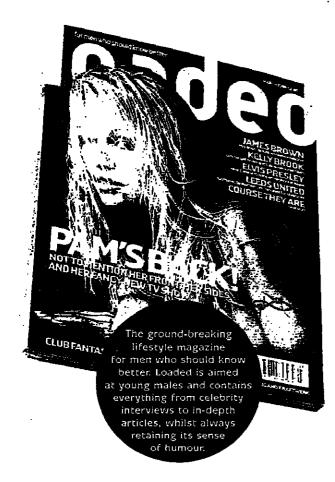
Sick man dies as power is cut off

AN ELDERLY Frenchman who could only breathe with the help of a respirator died when Electricite de France cut off power to his home after he failed to pay his bill of £125. The firm in Nice said it had been unaware of the man's health when it cut off power.

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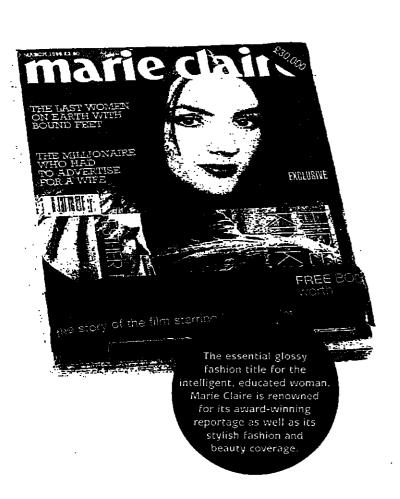
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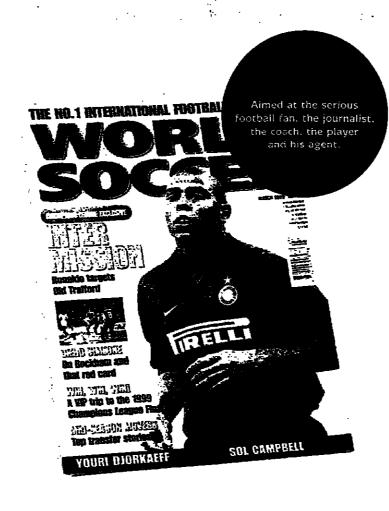






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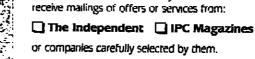
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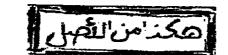
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Deadly legacy of Hiroshima in US

By Andrew Gumbel in Los Angeles

TRISHA PRITIKIN grew up in the shadow of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the weapons plant in the wilderness of eastern Washington state that produced the plutonium for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs under conditions of the utmost secrecy.

Three years ago Ms Pritikin's father, a former nuclear engineer at the plant, died of thyroid cancer. Her mother has just been diagnosed with the same disease. She herself suffers from hypothyroidism, a hormone deficiency that leads to sługgishness, weight gain and deterioration of the skin.

None of the so-called "Hanford downwinders", who have lived in the immediate vicinity of the nuclear reservation and suffered through long years of secrecy surrounding the true nature of its purpose, are in any doubt that the release of ra-dioactive materials has ravaged the health of the local population, poisoned the air and the soil, infected the local livestock and contaminated the nearby Columbia river.

So when preliminary results of a long-awaited federal health survey were released at the beginning of the month, they caused widespread consterna-tion and disbelief

The study, commissioned by the federal Center for Disease Controls and Prevention, came to the astonishing conclusion that there was no link between increased exposure to radioactive iodine, one of the main contaminants released by the plant, and increased incidence of thyroid-related illness.

The researchers, from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Re- in a long series of shocking dissearch Center in Seattle, claim to have uncovered "rather For four decades, since the strong evidence that exposure at these levels... does not increase the risk of thyroid disease. These results should consequently provide a substantial degree of reassurance to the population exposed to
Hanford radiation that the exnuclear materials had been posures are not likely to have affected their thyroid or parathyroid health," they write.

clearly ridiculous," Ms Pritikin rounding area. said. "We think there is a problem with the statistical power than 740,000 curies of I-131 of the study. But most of all this does a complete disservice to people... who have seen fami- 1986), contaminating wide lies members fall ill and die."

Judith Jurji, president of the 3,000-strong Hanford Downnear the plant, concurred. "In poor safety standards. Others. stroyed thyroid glands, with ther as experiments designed no history of the disease. It's to speed up the cooling process

study. The researchers do not enough to detect the emissions. deny the unusually high incidence of thyroid disease in the have been exposed to radioac-



emissions are not responsible for it.

According to Tim Connor, an environmental researcher who has spent the past two weeks turning the study inside out in an attempt to undermine it, the problem stems from a faulty line of inquiry. The Fred Hutchinson team did not look at thyroid disease incidence as a whole, but rather asked whether increased exposure to radioactive iodine-131 (I-131) led to increased risk of disease.

Since it was impossible to gauge the exposure of individuals with accuracy, Mr Connor argues, the survey result is just "statistical wizardry".

"They purposely held this study up as sound evidence that not only is Hanford somehow blameless for the thyroid disease that afflicts Hanford downwinders, they also clearly suggested that the results were superior to previous research indicating a connection between I-131 and thyroid disease," Mr Connor said.

The danger now is that a federal monitoring programme designed to track and, contain the devastating health effects of emissions from the nuclear plant will be dropped.

The whole affair is the latest coveries for the downwinders. plant opened in 1944, the official line was that Hanford was wellcontrolled and harmless.

In 1986, the Department of Energy at last released documents that not only stated for produced at Hanford, but that billions of gallons of radioactive liquids and billions of cubic The downwinders, however, metres of radioactive gases feel far from reassured. "It's had been released into the sur-

Between 1944 and 1960, more were released (about one tenth of that released at Chernobyl in areas of Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and into Canada. Some of the releases winders Coalition, who grew up were accidental or caused by my family six out of 10 have de- however, were deliberate - eijust clear as a bell," she said. in plutonium production, or as The Fred Hutchinson Center tests to check whether the inspent 10 years and \$18m on its telligence services were alert

Hanford region; rather they tive iodine, which is absorbed miraculously conclude that the by the human body through the



A bomb of the Fat Boy type dropped on Hiroshima

hormone deficiencies and cancer. For years before the truth began to emerge, local medical ofessionals noticed a worrying increase in thyroid-related disorders. People with skin conditions caused by thyroid problems were said to be wearing "Hanford necklaces".

The radioactive iodine entered the food chain and spread far beyond the area because local cows and goats used for commercial milk production ate contaminated grass.

In some ways, the Hanford controversy marks an advance in American efforts to come to terms with the darker side of its

Cold War legacy. A National Cancer Institute study into health problems arising from nuclear testing in the Nevada desert was kept secret for 14 years before it was released.

Nobody doubts the integrity

or the motives of the Fred Hutchinson researchers. But what downwinders bemoan is the apparent insensitivity to the feelings of their subjects. "We've lived with this all our lives," said Tricia Pritikin, "My father is dead and my mother is terminally ill. It would be nice to feel the federal government was fully behind us in our efforts to come to terms with it all."



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nuclear plant and its toxic thyroid gland and can cause Gun makers lose landmark damages case

THE GUN industry was hun-kering down yesterday after a BY DAVID USBORNE in New York federal jury in Brooklyn awarded damages of \$4m (£2.5m) in ty in Florida, have launched a lawsuit against manu-lawsuits against the gun in facturers by families of six murder victims in New York as well as a 19-year-old man who survived being shot in the head.

The verdict, which none the less exonerated 10 of the 25 gun makers cited in the suit, may be a turning point in the effort by anti-gun activists to challenge the industry. It echoes the campaign by the anti-tobacco movement against the cigarette of nine of them was a "proxiindustry in the United States. mate cause" of the shootings.

At the heart of the Brooklyn case was the plaintiffs' con- was tied to the shooting of the tention that the gun makers were negligent in overseeing the distribution of guns in the US market. They accused the companies of flooding those companies companies of flooding those companies compa states in the US, particularly in \$4m in harm, it awarded him the Deep South, with their only about \$500,000 (£310,000), products in the knowledge that based on the market share of they would then seep into the three companies linked to states with tough gun-sale re-strictions, such as New York. that shooting. They were Amer-ican Arms Inc. the Beretta USA "The huge pool of handguns Corp and Taurus International

is like toxic waste," a lawyer for been sent down the river by different companies."

cities, including Chicago, New Orleans, Bridgeport, Con-necticut, as well as Dade Coun-industry.

dustry. The suits are modelled on those filed by a multitude of US states against the tobacco industry. The cities want the gun industry to pay for the cost of combating crime involving guns.

The Brooklyn jury concluded that 15 manufacturers distributed their products negligently and that the negligence

The only monetary award

"I thank God we absolutely the plaintiffs told the jury. "It's won," declared Freddie Hamilton, whose son, Njuzi, was felled by a bullet in 1993. She In recent months, several US predicted that the verdict would herald a "whole new phase" of

e for

ader

The only Joyce scholar in Baghdad

WEEK IN THE LIFE

MOHAMMED DAWEESH, BAGHDAD

be lecturing young Iraqis on in one of the ramshackle taxis the wonders of English literature. Instead he acts as resident intellectual and translator at the BBC office in Baghdad.

realise that working for the for- sity for the three-hour grilling eign media involves hours that by five professors. The refew academics would accept. "There's always something to demic scene in Baghdad is do. My colleagues never seem to sleep," he says with a mis-

"I live out of town in the small suburb of Dora with my wife, Samira, and our three children. We have a modest house and my wife teaches English in the mornings. At home we are happy but when you look around and see what has happened to this country. you have terrible despair," he

country's infrastructure, the intermittent electricity, and a new phenomenon, child beggars on the streets, compounds the gloom. "Never in Iraq before have we seen such a thing. Every day there are more in the streets, people with no work and no livelihood. It is a terrible thing. You know, we Iraqis are very proud and this really hurts me," he said.

Wednesday was the most important day for many years for Mohammed. It was not the air duelling between allied and Iraqi warplanes in the south of the country that preoccupied him, nor the meeting of the country's Revolutionary Command Council, but an important interview. It was his viva voce, the oral examination that would decide whether he would be awarded the title Doctor of Philosophy for his unusual thesis. The subject is a semiotic translation of James Joyce's novel Ulysees. "I am not really nervous," he claimed before heading off to the examination centre, "but this is six years' work and I hope there will be no problem."

To get to the university

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MOHAMMED Daweesh should and potentially hazardous trip that belch out vile immes in polluted Baghdad. Nothing can be left to chance when it came to this interview, so Mohammed hired a taxi for the whole day Mohammed has come to and headed off to the univermarkable thing about the acathat it still exists, even if it is only a shadow of its former self.

At the party afterwards to celebrate his successful interview, the new Dr Mohammed Daweesh confided that he had been nervous. "You may think that all the best Iraqis are outside the country. I suppose that is true but they did not make it easy for me. Those professors that stayed behind are The deplorable state of the no fools, you know. They made it tough for me," he said.

After the excitement of the

interview it is back to the humdrum existence of translating news conferences and dealing with the sometimes silly queries and questions of foreign correspondents. But every day, subject to the demands of his employer, Mohammed makes a point of visiting the library of Baghdad University to check on some fact for his research, or just for a quiet place to read. It is a habit that comes from a deep love of literature. "I have to read, and when I read I want to translate it into Arabic so that others can share the richness of English language literature with me," he said.

A short, almost throwaway phrase in Ulusses drew Mohammed into the rich and complex world of 20th-century literature. The passage concerns a cat asleep pext to some children playing marbles, as the novel's hero, Leopold Bloom, journeys through Dublin. Deciding to avoid the cat, Bloom remarks to himself: Retter not to bother them Mohammed cut his sleeve in would usually involve a long order not to bother one." The research failed to throw light on long sleeve. "He did not want



intriguing reference to the the reference, but a chance en- to wake the cat, so he got a scis-Muslim Prophet in a novel whose central character is a hammed, who was studying scholars. One legend sur-

Dublin Jew perplexed Molinguistics at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Months of independent ta to find a cat asleep on his

counter with a Sufi mystic revealed its source: the legends that have built up among Sufi rounding the Prophet told of his waking from an afternoon sies-

sors and he cut his sleeves, left them there under the cat and went away," said Mohammed.

The episode speaks of the of detail. I spoke to many religentleness of the Prophet and is treasured in certain Muslim

"I wonder how James Joyce

gious people here in Baghdad. They couldn't tell me anything about it.

"Perhaps he found it when

got this story. It is amazing.

One would have to have a

the Prophet to know this sort



Mohammed Daweesh, BBC translator and student of James Joyce (left, by Jacques Emile Blanche). Dr Daweesh's research is hampered by sanctions against Iraq National Portrait Gallery/Richard Downes

Bosnian Muslims," he said.

From the age of 17 the work writer, Samuel Beckett, has fascinated him. "I started to read Beckett first but quickly realised that Joyce was in many ways the power behind Beckett. So I started reading Joyce. First Dubliners, then A Portrait of the Artist until I eventually came to Ulysees. What a novel, what an extraordinary project. I remember the first days reading it. It was very difficult, very complex, but absorbing."

His thesis on translating the novel into Arabic will now be followed by an attempt to translate the entire work.

Mohammed's greatest ambition is to walk the route of Bloom's travel through Dublin on Bloomsday, 16 June. That looks increasingly unlikely as sanctions have isolated even literary scholars such as Mohammed from the international mainstream. Last year he wrote to the British Library lending department in Yorkshire, requesting copies of the Joyce Quarterly journal. As an overseas member with deep knowledge of the life of credit coupons bought when he was resident in Britain, he was not prepared for the caustic reply. "They refused, saying they couldn't process my application because of sanctions imposed by the British Gov-

he was in Trieste, from the ernment, and they warned me. They said don't send any further requests until sanctions are lifted. It is depressing, upsetting. James Joyce has nothof Joyce and another Irish ing to do with chemical weapons or biological secrets," he said, the look of bewilderment mixed with genuine hurt visible in his large brown eyes.

> "The Western commitment to honouring sanctions has gone too far. It does not differentiate between individual needs and military needs." he said, before packing up his office materials and heading home for the day. Tucked into his satchel is his

latest project: the translation of a long obituary of the poet Ted Hughes. "I have always liked this poet. He is full of strange and powerful insights into nature and the violence that lives just below the surface of our lives," he said, before braving the chilly streets of Baghdad for a taxi to take him home. The article comes from a British newspaper sent by a colleague in London, in defiance of the intellectual embargo. "We've got to keep our minds alive, somehow. I'm sure the author and The Independent newspaper will forgive

The charming smile speaks volumes for the resilience and resourcefulness of the intellectuals and scholars that have stayed behind and survived in Iraq against enormous odds. RICHARD DOWNES

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hite-knuckle control on the old Silk Road

SHE COULD pass for a lollipop By PHIL REEVES lady. She is a small, cheery, woman with a winning grin ornamented by a couple of finger widths of gold buck teeth.

She loves a natter, too, although here the good humour theme: the buman rights abuses of Uzbekistan, third most populous of the ex-Soviet republics.

If proof were needed that dissidents come in many forms. it could be found in Mukhdabar Akhmedova. She is 60, a devout Muslim, and a brave, angry and alarmingly rare critic of her nation's leadership.

Because of her outspoken views, she has been bugged, followed, harassed and disnatched to prison for six months (for slandering the president). It has not silenced her. She still says the people have been "cheated", but most of them are too scared to say so. And, in her view, the chief villain of the piece is the president, Islam Karimov.

The 23 million people of Uzbekistan are hovering between the old Soviet world, with its knee-jerk repressive and paternalistic impulses, and a new society, a secular nation that can hope, one distant day, to be reasonably free. Now, as Ms Akhmedova points out at in Tashkent

length, the former overwhelmingly prevails. The media is heavily cen-

sored. Only a couple of Russian fades as she hones in on her newspapers are allowed. When The Independent discussed posting a copy of the newspaper to two junior government of ficials, they looked worried and insisted that the package be sent to their superiors.

Uzbeks - mindful that it is a crime to "offend the honour and dignity" of the president - talk carefully with outsiders. It took no more than a three-minute conversation with a woman selling jewellery, in a gold market in the 2.500-year-old Silk Road city of Bukhara, before a hefty man in a black leather jacket appeared at my side. The woman spotted him first: "We have a great president," she suddenly told me.

Foreign journalists passing through Uzbekistan's airports are handled by Intourist - the Soviet agency used by the KGB to monitor outsiders. And visiting correspondents are expected to report to the "khakim"-the local administration - on arrival in a new town.

thoritarian system is the 60-



Standing up for freedom

year-old Mr Karimov, who made the transition from Communist Party boss to president using skills honed under the

His election after independence in 1991 was widely seen as neither free nor fair. He has since shored up power by extending his office to 2000 in a suspect 1995 referendum; he controls the judiciary, parliament, and the KGB-style security services, the NSS. The latter have repeatedly caused concern among the international human rights community. "Police and NSS used torture, harassment, illegal

The man behind this au-

Mukhdabar Akhmedova:

Soviet system,

searches and wiretaps and arbitrarily detained and arrested



charges," said a 1997 US State Department report on Uzbek-Main opposition parties -

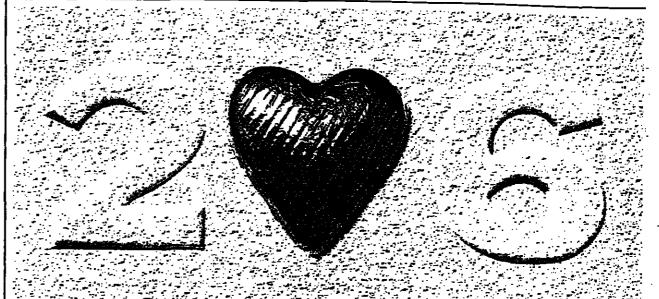
such as Erk (Freedom) and Birlik (Unity) - have been shut down; almost all opposition has been driven underground. The government says it is

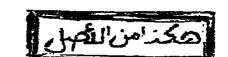
seeking to build a "secular democratic state", and to widen the institutes of civil government. Placards bear the presi-

dent's epigrammatic sayings in the streets and public buildings. His works are taught in schools. In short, Mr Karimov is a man who, as one Western observer put it, exerts "white knuckle control" over his fellow citizens. Is this the real Mr Kari-

mov? His apologists say, no. They cite the mess that Russia is now in after trying to rush through "shock therapy" reforms. Rome, they argue, was not built in a day. Meanwhile, Ms Akhmedova

intends to keep up the pressure. The authorities won't like it, but that does not bother her. "They can't touch me now," she said cheerily, as we left her turnbledown two-roomed house in the capital, Tashkent, "There would be an international scandal, I am too well known." ...





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加州外域的研究中央机场区中省	API Biosch Applied Hologee Applied Hologee Applied Hologee Applied Biographe Biographe Biographe Capital Ind Capit	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 130.5 156.5 352.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 239.5 44.0	-100 -15 -25 -25 -10 03 -10 -20 -25 -10 03 -25 -10 03 -25 -10 -10 -15 -10 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15	40 86 71 28 22 73 30 86 74 29 44	113 725 68 76 87 96 86 140 64 73 90 80 112	1507 1559 1106 1565 5366 1137 3443 6753 1946 1173 5699 1211	456 526 521 191 2298 490 190 822 1350 64	263 175 317 68 88 36 36 36 37 40 37 30 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60	916 Business Post Capte Sp Cadar Sm Cadar Sm Compel Compelate Sm Compete Sm Composite Sm Composi	2025 5075 5530 7000 5530 1755 4290 1450 5725 5530 10900 395	-17.5 -15.0 -20.0 -20.0 -15. -15. -15. -15. -10. -20.0 -20.0 -20.0 -20.0 -20.0	04 27 05 12 83 17 45 46 05	200 694 179 281,2 21,0 12,9 21,7 10,9 36,5 19,3 95,6	多级的 10 年 10 8 8 4 4 10 8 8 4 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	848 173 390 416 339 191 528 5750 11 51 518 115 169	373 30 190 250 223 137 370 4050 6 8 268 17 110	intal Gresnys DC Improphosal S Solutions Jernings Brothers K S Bornedo Kunnings Brothers Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Kareste Katelonis	577.5 49.5 35.6 35.5 37.0 137.5 55.0 105 50 193 109.5 78.5	200 -75 -100 -130 200 -200 -00 -00 -00	10 42 21 30 26	17.1 236 10 f 14.9 13.0 6.1	4751 5253 539 440 550 550 551 551 551 551 551 551 551 55
加州外域的农政中央包括农村安山	API Binner Applied Hologra Applied Hologra App Wignes Ap Bermuse Bilagene B	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 130.5 156.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 239.5 44.0 356.5	-100 -15 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -2	49 86 71 28 22 73 30 86 74 32 44 37	113 726 68 76 87 96 86 140 64 73 90 80 112 90 112	1507 1559 1106 1565 2566 2566 2566 1137 3443 6752 1946 1173 1599 1211 3396	456 526 521 191 2256 499 523 490 190 64 1275	263 175 312 68 880 265 270 183 206 620 21 540	916 Business Post Capte Sp Cadar Sm Cadar Sm Compel Compelses Sm Compels Sm Compelses Sm Cada Sm Delpta Dispanal Delpta Delpta Delpta Delpta Delpta	202.5 507.5 625.0 7700.0 458.0 573.0 429.0 145.0 572.5 553.0 1090.0	-17.5 -15.0 -20.0 -20.0 15. -15. -15. -10. 0.0 17.0 20.0 20.0 20.0	04 37 05 12 13 17 45 46 05	20 0 69 4 17 9 281.2 21.0 12.9 21.7 10.9 36.5 19.3 95.6	经验的证券的 2.	848 173 390 416 339 191 528 5730 11 51 518 39 175 189 390	373 30 190 250 223 137 4050 6 8 288 17 110 465	intal Gresnys ICC mismatonal is Solutiona Solutiona Jumings Brother K S Bornedo Kingster (Losur Lawrence Lawren	577.5 49.5 35.0 35.5 37.0 10.5 50.0 10.5 10.0 19.3 10.9 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5 78.5	200 -75 -100 -130 200 -200 -00 -00 -00	10 42 21 30 26	17.1 236 10 f 14.9 13.0 6.1 18.2 f	4751 5253 539 440 550 550 551 551 551 551 551 551 551 55
200周928138673873999914739158475	API Binum Applied Hologra Applied Hologra Applied Hologra App Wignes Bingdon Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose B	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 130.5 156.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 236.5 57.0	-100 -15 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	49 66 71 28 22 73 38 86 74 28 29 44 37 114	113 726 68 76 87 86 86 140 64 73 90 80 172 417 47	1507 1553 1106 1565 2566 2565 2565 1137 3443 6753 1546 1173 5699 1211 3396 5567	456 526 521 191 2256 499 523 490 190 64 1275	263 175 276 880 256 256 270 373 376 276 276 276 276 276 276 276 276 276 2	BTG Basiness Post Basiness Post Capita Sp Cadar Gry Cala Campel Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Compatasionier Davison Hottlage DCS Gry Delptia Davison Grp Edos Financial Objects Financial Objects	2025 507.5 625.0 95.0 7700.0 456.0 175.5 429.0 145.0 572.5 572.5 1090.0 39.5 1225.0 347.5 315.0	-17.5 -15.0 -20.0 -20.0 -20.0 -15.0 -15.0 -15.0 -17.0 -20.0	04 27 05 22 03 17 45 24 46 05	20 0 69 4 17 9 281.2 21.0 12.9 21.7 10.9 36.5 19.3 95.6	4 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	848 173 390 416 339 191 528 5730 11 51 518 39 175 189 390	373 39 39 350 323 37 37 4050 6 8 45 17 110 45 195	intal Gresnys DC Improphosal S Solutions Jernings Brothers K S Bornedo Kunnings Brothers Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Lawrench Kareste Katelonis	577.5 49.5 250.0 325.5 137.5 137.5 450.0 19.3 109.5 28.0 28.0	200 -75 -100 200 200 00 00 00 00	10 42 21 30 26	17.1 236 10 r 149 130 61 182	4751 5253 539 440 550 550 551 551 551 551 551 551 551 55
200 年	API Binneth Applied Hollogree Applied Hollogree Applied Sep Bentropee Blaggion Blownee Blaggion Blownee Blownee Blownee Blownee Blownee Blownee Blownee Blownee Compiler (J) De La Ree Dolphien Pk Forgusson Flets Blownee Fletstare Inversesh	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 130.5 156.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 239.5 44.0 256.5 57.0 41.5	-100 -125 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	40 86 71 28 22 73 38 6 74 8 37 4 6 17 4 17 4	113 726 68 76 87 96 86 140 64 73 90 80 112 449 717 47 59	1607 1677 1269 1106 1695 2905 1137 3443 6752 1946 1173 6499 1211 3396 5367 2023	## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ##	263 175 175 186 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185	BTG Business Post Dayles So Cadar Sry CMG Catage Compel Computation Computatio	202.5 507.5 625.0 95.0 7700.0 456.0 775.5 429.0 145.0 572.5 552.0 1090.0 395.0 347.5 375.0 570.0	-175 -150 -200 -200 15 -15 -15 -10 00 110 03 -200 -25	04 27 05 22 03 17 45 46 05 04	201 694 179 281 2 210 129 217 109 365 193 356	400 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	840 177 139 146 139 170 170 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175 175	373 300 300 223 37 37 4050 6 8 8 17 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 45 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 11	intal Greenings IDC terreprocess IDC terreprocess IDC terreprocess IDC terreprocess Identify Brother In S Gometo Identify Consultation Identify Ide	577.5 49.5 35.6 35.5 370.6 370.6 450.0 10.5 450.0 19.3 10.9 45.0 0.5 235.0 0.5 235.0 0.5 235.0	200 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 23.6 10 f 14.9 13.0 6.1 18.2 1	4751 5253 4440 4440 5553 5573 5573 5573 5573 5573 5575 5
200 年	API Binum Applied Hologra Applied Hologra Applied Hologra App Wignes Bingdon Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose Intil Bournose B	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 156.5 352.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 239.5 44.0 41.5 109.5 109.5	-100 -1-5 -2-5 -10 -1-5 -10 -1-5 -10 -1-5 -10 -1-5 -10 -1-5 -1-5	49 65 71 8 22 7 3 3 8 5 7 4 8 3 7 11 4 17 4 19 7 4	11376 6876 76876 8678 860 140 80 112 440 117 47 59 55 42	1507 1677 1253 1106 1685 5286 5286 1117 3443 6753 1117 3453 5587 3253 327	**************************************	2007年 1000年	816 Browners Post Captor Go Captor Go Captor Go Compel Companie Pos Banes Serv Diseason Holdings DICS Go Diseason Holdings Diseason Go Bellon Financial (Diseason Georgian IV New York Work New York Total	502.5 507.5 655.0 95.0 700.0 458.0 572.5 429.0 145.0 572.5 125.0 39.5 39.5 39.5 39.5 39.5 39.5 39.5 39.5	-175 -150 -200 -200 -200 -15 -15 -15 -16 -170 -200 -200 -200 -200 -200 -200 -200 -2	04 27 05 22 03 17 45 46 05 04 05 04 18	200 694 1799 281,2 210 1299 36,5 193 36,6 191 68,7	427 3382 5263 1674 5275 3860 7970 1170 4284 5667 1556 4517 7869 4517	848 177 390 416 339 428 573 573 175 390 175 375	373 180 230 137 375 4050 6 8 8 17 110 45 1 160	Intel Greening Of segmentation of Scholard Jamaings Brother & Scholard Jamaings Brother & Scholard Group Lower Group Lower Group Lower Group Lower Group Harvays Willes Williams (Sept. Microsys Group Art Spores Group Art Spores Group Kutt Group PLC Matting PLC Microsys Group PLC Spores Group Skill Group	577.5 49.5 35.6 35.5 370.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 45.0 45.0 45.0 45.0 45.0 45.0 45.0 4	200 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 216 10 1 149 130 61 182	4751 4255 4440 4540 5540 5513 5513 467 467 467 467 467 553 467 554 554 554 554 554 554 554 554 554
270 M 213 W 250 19 20 194 W 191 25 14 15 25 16 10 136	API Binesh API Binesh Applied vilologia Applied vilologia App Migra Api	415.0 152.5 124.0 253.5 130.5 156.5 237.0 67.5 40.0 162.5 227.0 239.5 41.0 102.5 102.5 102.5 102.5 102.5	-100 -15 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -10 -15 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	40 - 65 1 2 2 2 3 3 6 5 7 2 8 2 2 3 3 6 5 7 2 8 2 9 4 4 - 37 4 7 4 9 7 4 9	113 726 88 76 87 86 140 80 112 440 117 47 59 55 42 84	1507 1077 1255 1106 1695 5256 2305 1137 3463 1137 5499 1231 2358 2357 2357 1313	**************************************	2007年 1000年	8TG Resease Post Lectus Ge	2025 507.5 655.0 95.0 700.0 575.0 175.5 429.0 175.5 572.5 572.5 572.5 395. 395. 397.5 397.5 570.0	-175 -150 -200 -200 -200 -200 -15 -15 -15 -10 -200 -25 -25 -25 -25	04 27 05 22 83 17 45 46 05 04 05 18	200 694 179 281.2 210 129 36.5 19.3 36.5 19.3 28.4 28.4 28.4 28.4 28.4 28.4 28.4 28.4	427 4382 5263 574 8275 3865 7976 1778 4384 8677 8687 8687 8687 8687 8687 8687 86	848 177 390 446 339 45 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57 57	373 390 390 390 323 377 370 4050 6 8 17 195 110 451 110 451 110 150 160 160 160	heint, Greenings (10) Scholande (10)	577.5 49.5 35.6 35.5 370.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 45.0 10.5 70.5 25.0 66.5 26.5 26.5 26.5 20.0	**************************************	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 216 10 1 149 130 61 182 1	4751 4751 5552 444 454 454 555 556 556 556 556 556 556
270 May 232 May 252 197 297 252 197 297 254 157 25 76 19 136 3	API Boneth Applied richogue Applied richogue Applied richogue Applied Bonnesse Blagden Blandses Blagden Blandses Blandse	1525 1240 2535 1305 1555 3525 2370 1625 2370 410 410 410 410 410 410 410 410 410 41	-100 -15 -25 -10 -10 -15 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20	49 - 65 1 2 2 2 3 3 6 5 7 2 8 2 9 4 - 37 4 7 8 9 -	113766 6876 8768 860 140 644 72 90 80 112 449 117 47 55 42 84	1507 1576 1106 1685 2305 2305 1117 3403 1519 1519 1519 1519 1519 1519 1519 151	**************************************	2007年 1000年	816 Browners Post Captor Go Captor Go Captor Go Compel Companie Pos Banes Serv Diseason Holdings DICS Go Diseason Holdings Diseason Go Bellon Financial (Diseason Georgian IV New York Work New York Total	262.5 507.5 553.0 25.0 7700.0 7700.0 572.5 429.0 145.0 1990.9 39.5 1225.0 347.5 570.0 377.5 570.0 216.0 216.0	-175 -150 -200 -200 -200 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -15 -10 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -2	04 27 05 12 03 17 45 46 05 04 18 12 95	200 694 179 281 277 109 365 193 366 191 188 7 294 393 892	4227 3362 5263 1674 5275 3060 7970 1170 4254 5257 5067 1956 8673 7869 4512	848 177 399 416 339 191 428 5730 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 11	373 390 390 393 373 370 4050 6 8 17 195 195 195 195 195 195 195 195 195 195	inini. Gressup: OC superspool OC superspool OC superspool Southern Journal Brothern Kepticker (Education Kepticker) Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Lawrotch Kepticker Kedesy	577.5 49.5 35.6 37.6 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 10.9 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0	200 -750 -100 200 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100 -100	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 216 10 1 149 130 61 182 1	4753 4255 4440 4640 4640 4640 4640 4640 4647 4647
200 年	AFI Binesh chicky a Applied chicky a Applied chicky a Bermane for Bermane for Bermane for Bermane for Couple (A) De La Fluc Bergason Field Sough Field Sough Field Field Sough Field Fi	1525 1540 2535 1565 1565 1565 1565 1565 1565 1675 167	-100 -125 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	49 66 71 28 22 73 38 74 29 44 37 114 174 189 48	113 7:68 7.68 7.68 7.68 8.6 14.0 8.0 17.2 44.0 17.7 47 5.5 42 84 19.7	1507 1077 1259 1106 5256 5256 5256 1117 3443 6754 1117 3569 1171 3596 1211 3596 3597 1311 3597 1311 3597 1311 3597	486 671 91 225 49 52 75 49 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	263 175 216 880 256 256 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270	816 Resease Post Desire Sys Desire Sys Desire Sys Desire Sys Desire Sys Desire Ser Desire Holding Desire Sp Desire S	2025 507.5 553.0 7700.0 7700.0 7700.0 775.5 775.5 775.5 775.0 775.	.175 25 -150 00 -200 15 -5 -15 00 110 200 -25 -25 -25 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20 -20	04 37 05 12 03 17 45 46 05 04 18 12 64 95	200 694 179 281 271 29 710 365 191 68.7 	4227 3362 5263 1674 5275 3060 7970 1170 4284 5567 7869 4517 7869 4517 7869 4517 7869 4517 7869 4517	848 177 399 416 339 191 428 5730 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 11	173 183 183 184 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185 185	heint, Greenings (10) Scholande (10)	577.5 49.5 35.6 37.6 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 10.9 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0 37.0	* 000 ± 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 23.6 10 T 14.9 13.0 6 T 18.2 1	4753 5250 5440 5540 5540 5540 5540 5540 5540
200年第28日的农民中央农村的农村的农村的农民中央	API Brooth Applied Hollows Applied Hollows Applied Hollows Applied Browning Applied Brownin	405.0 1525.5 1540.5 1505.5 1505.5 1505.5 1525.5 227.0 1625.5 227.0 238.5 40.0 41.5 109.5 109.5 109.5 77.5 73.0	-100 -125 -25 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	49 - 66 71 28 27 38 67 48 29 44 - 37 114 75 19 74 9 - 48 78	113 7:68 7:68 7:68 7:68 8:64 8:64 8:0 11:2 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4 8:4	1807 1877 1389 1106 5286 5286 5286 1137 3443 6754 1946 1173 5699 1211 3396 3396 3397 1313 3457 3457 3457 3457 3457 3457 3457 345	486 671 191 298 682 75 499 191 686 823 64 55 57 57 130 130 130 130 130 130 130 130 130 130	263 175 217 68 68 56 56 56 57 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	8TG Browners Post Crotins Go Grant Serv Grant Serv Grant Serv Grant Serv Grant Serv Grant Serv Grant Go G Grant Go G Grant Go G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	2025 5075 5076 5076 5076 5730 5730 5730 5730 5735 5735 5735 5735	.175 .150 .200 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15 .15	04 37 05 12 03 17 45 46 05 04 18 12 64 95 57	200 694 179 281,2 210 129 710 36,5 191 68,7 	420 420 420 420 420 420 420 420 420 420	848 177 390 416 339 191 575 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 11	373 390 290 293 157 370 4850 6 6 7 7 7 100 1 4 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	inini. Greenings OUT sugaradored in OUT sugaradored in OUT sugaradored in Outsings brother in Outsings	577.5 49.5 35.6 137.5 137.5 137.5 137.6 109.5 109.5 109.5 235.0 66.5 235.0 66.5 235.5 235.5 235.5 235.5	* 000 ± 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	10 42 21 30 26 21	17.1 73.6 10 7 14.9 10.0 61 18.2 1	4751 5255 5444 5456 540 557 540 557 540 557 540 554 554 554 554 554 554 554 554 554
200年第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日第28日	AFI Binesh chicky a Applied chicky a Applied chicky a Bermane for Bermane for Bermane for Bermane for Couple (A) De La Fluc Bergason Field Sough Field Sough Field Field Sough Field Fi	1525 1540 2535 1565 1565 1565 1565 1565 1565 1675 167	100 115 125 100 15 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	4 - 67 1 2 2 7 3 3 6 7 4 8 2 9 4 - 37 4 7 8 9 4 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8	11376887687687687688687687177878888888888	1807 1977 1259 1106 1695 2266 1137 3443 6754 1196 1173 396 1271 3296 1271 3297 1271 3297 1271 3297 1271 3297 3297 3297 3297 3297 3297 3297 3297	486 571 191 298 490 490 490 490 490 490 490 490 490 490	263 175 176 886 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 25	8TG Donaess Post Donaess Post Donaes Post Donate Sig Donaes Sig Do	2025 5675 5636 960 17000 4580 4790 1755 1755 1755 1755 1750 1755 1750 1750	.175 25 -150 00 -200 15 -15 -15 00 170 00 170 00 -25 -25 -20 00 -25 -25 -20 00 -20 00 -20 00 -20 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0	04 27 05 22 03 17 45 46 05 04 05 18 12 95 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	200 694 179 281,2 21,0 12,9 27,7 10,9 36,5 19,3 95,6 19,1 14,3 9,2 11,9	4227 3382 5263 1673 5275 5275 5275 5275 5277 5277 5277 52	848 177 389 416 339 191 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51	373 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39	hint, Greening, Tollows, Johnson, Sangahan Sanga	577.5 49.5 55.0 520.5 137.5 137.5 107.5 109.5 109.5 225.0 109.5 225.0 66.5 235.0 60.0 300.5 152.5 152.5 152.5 152.5	* 000 - 1000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	10 42 21 30 26 21 -	17.1 23.6 10 T 14.9 13.0 6.1 18.2 18.2 1	4751 2020 4440 4440 4540 4570 4570 4571 4571 4571 4571 4571 4571 4571 4571
200周年200日 200日 200日 200日 200日 200日 200日 200日	APT Brooty Applied rollogue Applied rollogue Applied rollogue Applied rollogue Borrosse Borrosse Borrosse Borrosse Borrosse Borrosse Borrosse Capital Ind Cacital Caci	115.0 152.5 154.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 155.5 162.5	-100 -15 -25 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -15 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10 -10	40 65 1 25 2 2 3 3 6 5 4 5 2 4 4 5 7 4 5 9 4 7 8 9 4 7 8 9 4 7 8 9 4 7 8 9 4 7 8 9 5 6 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	113768 76876 86676 86676 86676 86676 86776 86776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776 8776	1807 1977 1788 1106 1106 1107 1208 1107 1208 1107 1208 1208 1107 1208 1208 1208 1208 1208 1208 1208 1208	486 556 1275 1275 1275 1275 1275 1275 1275 1275	263 175 176 886 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 256 25	816 Research Post Create Grant Control Go Carbon Grant	2025 5675 5636 564 77000 4560 4790 1755 1755 1755 1755 1755 1755 1750 1750	.175 .150 .200 .200 .15 .15 .10 .10 .200 .200 .200 .200 .200 .200	04 27 05 22 03 17 45 46 05 04 05 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	20 0 694 179 281 2 71 0 129 71 7 109 36.5 193 6.5 191 68.7 - 294 11.8 11.9 51.5	4227 3382 5263 1623 7714 3275 3080 7970 1178 4284 2857 1693 4512 7889 4512 7889 4512 7889 4512 7889 7889 7889 7889 7889 7889 7889 788	848 173 390 416 339 416 518 518 518 339 1 72 295 215 215 215 217 217 217 217 217 217 217 217 217 217	373 380 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 250 25	Intell Greening College in Statement Statement Statement Lorent Group Lorent Group Lorent Group Lorent Group Lorent Group Lorent Group Lorent Group Mar Sports Grou	577.5 49.5 55.00 125.5 137.5 377.0 105.5 109.5 109.5 109.5 25.5 26.5 26.5 26.5 26.5 26.5 26.5 26	× 67-50 -719-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00	10 42 21 30 26 21 -	17.1 23.6 10 T 14.9 13.0 6.1 18.2 1 18.2 1 18.2 1 1.3 1 1 1.3 1 1 1.3 1 1 1 1	4751 4751 5751 5444 5451 5451 5451 5451
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

BA pays £215m for stake in Iberia

BRITISH AIRWAYS last night confirmed it would pay up to \$215m for a 9 per cent stake in Iberia, the Spanish airline, as part of a wide-renging strategic alliance between the two airlines.

BA and Iberia will co-operate in a range of areas, including code-sharing on flights beyond the UK and Spain, and reciprocal participation in frequent flyer programmes. Iberia has accepted an invitation to join BA's Oneworld global airline alliance. American Airlines also said it was taking a 1 per cent stake in Iberia, which is being privatised by the Spanish government.

Rogers under pressure over Sky



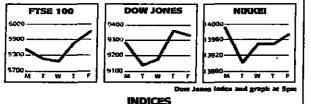
PETER ROGERS (left), the chief executive of the **Independent Television** Commission, was under increasing pressure to step down last night after the television watchdog appeared to have exceeded its responsibilities by lobbying against British Sky Broadcasting's proposed takeover of Manchester United. In a statement issued last night,

the FTC said it was concerned that the £624m acquisition needed careful investigation, although it stressed that the decision on whether or not to clear the deal was down to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The statement follows reports that the ITC had told the MMC that the deal should be blocked.

Berisford spurns takeover approach

BERISFORD, the former sugar trader turned kitchen equipment supplier, has rejected an approach that could have led to a bid and the unnamed bidder has now withdrawn its interest. Yesterday's announcement to the stock exchange was made in response to a recent rise in the share price. The shares, which started the week at 177.5p, rose a further 3p to 201.5p yesterday.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Clase	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low Yk	uld(%)
FTSE 100	5950.70	62.20	1.06	6195.60	4599.20	2.68
FTSE 250	5187.70	0.70	0.01	5970.90	4247.60	3.20
FTSE 350	2828.50	25.10	0.90	2969,10	2210.40	2.76
FTSE All Share	2735.41	23.70	0.87	2886.52	2143.53	2.81
FTSE SmaltCap	2237.00	11.20	0.50	2793,80	1834.40	3,62
FTSE Fledgling	1222.80	6.10	0.50	1517,10	1046.20	4.43
FTSE AIM	827.00	2.10	0.26	1146,90	761.30	1.21
FTSE Eurotop 100	2730.09	27,04	1.00	3079,27	2018.15	2.15
FTSE Eurotop 300	1192.90	11.72	0.99	1332,07	880.63	2.00
Dow Janes	9320.72	-40.16	-0.43	9647.96	7400.30	1.65
Nikkel	13973.69	21.29	0.15	17352.35	12787.90	1.04
Hang Seng	9425.42	_ 278.62	3.05	11926,16	6544.79	3.73
Dax	4888.74	49.41	1,02	6217,83	3833.71	1.75
S&P 500	1238.52	-15.02	-1.20	1283,64	923.32	1.28
Nasdag	2345,28	-59.09	-2.46	2533,44	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	6458.20	-33.31	-0.51	7837,70	5320.90	1.64
Brazil Bovespa	8951.77	-17.18	-0.19	12339.14	4575.69	6.92
Belgium Bel20	3389.26	36.06	1,08	3713,21	2626.25	2.09
Amsterdam Exch	523.33	5.26	1.02	600.65	366.58	1.88
France CAC 40	4060.36	-11.98	-0.29	4404,94	2881.21	1.99
Milan MIB30	33852.00	447.00	1.34	39170.00	24175.00	1.21
Madrid Roex 35	9739.40	48.90	0.51	10989,80	6869.90	1.92
insh Overali	5251.33	112.01	2.18	5581,70	3732.57	1,49
S Korea Comp	551.77	27.78	5.30	651. <u>9</u> 5	277.37	0.06
Australia ASX	2889.50	22.50	0.79	2948,70	2386.70	3.18

SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
5,40	4 50	5 40
> 30	440	5.36
5 P	4 30	5 32
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	at 5pm. German money :	market rates equal euro raci

PINTEREST RATES

MONEY MAKKET KALES					ROM) YIELD:	5	
Index	3 month	AL cps	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr de	Long band	Yr chg
Uk	5.44	-2.06	5.25	-2 20	4,41	-1.54	4.38	-1.55
US	5 00	-0 63	5.18	-0.51	5.00	0.51	5 38	0.48
hpan	0.38	-0.46	0.40	-0.42	2.19	0.21	3.29	0.69
Cermani	310	-0 41	3.03	-0.75	3.84	-1.14	4.76	-0.79

CURRENCIES									
Germany	3.10	-0 41	3.03	-0.75	3.84	-1.14	4.76	-0.79	
hpan	0.38	-0.46	0.40	-0.42	2.19	0.21	3.29	0.69	
US	5 00	-0 63	5.18	-0.51	5.00	0.51	5 38	0.48	
UK	5.94	-2.00	5.25	-2 20	4,41	-1.54	4.38	-1.55	

	\$/£	€/£	¥/£		
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Deltar	1 6315	+0.82c	1 6395	Sterling	0.6129	-0.31p	0 6099
Eine	1 4467	+0 93c	1 4079	Euro	0 8862	-24.31c	0 8573
Yen	1E6 64	+¥0 47	204 09	Yen	114.38	40.30	124 69
£indes	100.20	+0.30	104.30	\$ index	105.00	+0 10	107.90
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CHOICK INDICATORS								
	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Q1E	Yr ago	Nest Ag
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Gertal (5)	289 95	2.25	298 60	RPI	164.40	2.80	159 92	Feb
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(21,0 [2)	6793	2.23	298 BU	KPI	104.40	2.50	159 92	req
S.lucr (\$)	5 64	0.14	7.00	Base	Rates	5.50	7.25	
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Australia (\$)	2.4354	Mexican
Austria (schillings)	19.20	Netherla
Selgium (francs)	56.43	New Zea
Canada (\$)	2.3517	Norway
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8070	Portugal
Denmark (kroner)	10.44	Saudi Ar
Finland (markka)	8.3662	Singapor
France (francs)	9.1637	South Af
Germany (marks)	2.7420	Spain (pe
Greece (drachma)	450.24	Sweden
Hong Kong (S)	12.16	Switzerla
Ireland (punts)	1.0977	Thailand
Indian (rupees)	61.97	Turkey (i
Israel (shekels)	6.1266	USA (\$)
Italy (Hra)	2715	
Janan (yen)	181.17	Rates for
		-=

Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.85
Netherlands (guilders)	3.0738
New Zealand (\$)	2.8425
Norway (kroner)	12.07
Portugal (escudos)	278.48
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9231
Singapore (\$)	2.6260
South Africa (rands)	9.5028
Spain (pesetas)	232.08
Sweden (kronor)	12.50
Switzerland (francs)	2.2379
Thailand (bants)	55 09
Turkey (lirasi)	5418 96
USA (\$)	1.5800
Rates for indication purpo	ses on a

Lloyds poised for merger action as profits hit £3.3bn

By ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

LLOYDS-TSB, Britain's biggest high street bank, yesterday signalled its readiness to join in the worldwide wave of banking mergers as it declared a 14 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profit to £3.29bn last year and made a promise of more growth to come.

Sir Brian Pitman, the bank's chairman, said yesterday that preconditions for mergers are more auspicious than they were," adding that "for weaker players the confidence of ever nowards profits has been

Operating costs continue to fall sharply, with the group promising further savings on top of the £400m a year pledged at the time of the Lloyds-TSB deal.

The bank, he said, still saw opportunities for consolidation in the UK, particularly in the mortgage market, although the issue of competition in small business lending meant there was little chance of getting a clearing bank merger through.

However, he would not rule out deals abroad, provided the bank's tough acquisition criteria could be met.

mergers seem to have destroyed value," Sir Brian said. But he pointed out: "There is no doubt that a transformation of the financial services industry is happening all over the

"Some of the cross-border

"A deal has to strengthen our competitive position, add to our skills and meet our economic test."

Sir Brian's upbeat remarks at the start of the annual reporting season for the banks sparked a sharp rise in share prices across the sector as a

Rival Barclays, still basking in the glow of the warm reception to yesterday's appointment of a new American 1513p, Natwest rose 70p to 1225, and Lloyds itself rose 67.5p to 852p.

Lloyds shares have been hit repeatedly by fears of big Latin American losses. However, yesterday's figures showed profits in Latin America were up despite tighter



Sir Brian Pitman (left), chairman, and Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB

economic conditions in Brazil Analysts say that given the bank's track record on handling acquisitions, and the

ING, the Dutch banking and

insurance giant, is transfer-

ring control of ING Barings,

its investment banking arm,

from London to Amsterdam

as part of a sweeping internal

last autumn's huge emerging

market losses, writes Andrew

In an internal memo cir-

culated yesterday staff were

also warned that discre-

tionary bonuses for the year

just gone will be "below ini-

one of the few British banks turn on equity of 33 per cent, that could muster sharehold- and plenty on which potentially er support for a major deal

1999 bonus payments will be

tied more closely to overall

Chief executive officer

David Robins, who joined the

ganise its activities on prod-

nct lines, in a bid to end the

squabbling between the geo-

graphical fieldoms that grew

up as a result of a ING's mid-

The new ING Barings is.

1990s spending spree.

performance by the firm.

tial expectations" while in dominantly client focussed."

Mr Robins said, to be "pre-ing officer, Peter Bennett,

to spend, the bank saw no need to contemplate a share

The bank insisted that the

reorganisation would not re-

sult in any further job losses

beyond the 1200 cuts an-

raft of top level departures

since the firm's emerging

market losses came to light.

These include Marinus Min-

derhoud, the previous head of

the firm. Since his depar-

ture, the global chief operat-

nounced in October.

However, the bank has kept shareholders sweet with a 29 per cent increase in the dividend payout to 22.9p for the

Barings shake-up will cut bonuses

has quit, followed by Jeremy Palmer, the head of equities. In their memo to staff, Mr Robins and Michel Tilmant, the main board member responsible for corporate and ING, acknowledged there had

been "errors in judgement and control failures" in 1998. The group chairman, Godfried van der Lugt, also dismissed talk that the shake-un could herald the closure or sale of ING Barings.

Income was up 6 per cent to £7.43bn, despite toughermarket conditions. Although in place

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statutory profits were down 5 per cent to £3bn reflecting the £400m provision for pensions misselling taken in the first half, there was a strong rebound in second half profits which the bank believes is continuing this year.

Sir Brian said he believed that the threat of recession had been averted and that while bad debts were bound to rise, the pace at which interest rates are falling meant he the early 1990s when widespread corporate collapses and home repossessions drove several of the big banks into

"We do see a slowdown but not rampant recession," he said. "It really is different this

Toyota snubs Britain as choice for third car factory

THE JAPANESE car manufacturer Toyota is planning to build its third European assembly plant outside Britain but there could be consolation for the UK in the shape of a doubling of production at its Deeside engine plant in North

Executives from Toyota, the biggest carmaker in Japan and the third biggest in the world, said yesterday that sites in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were being examined as potential locations for a new car factory.

Another possibility is to expand Toyota's new plant at Valenciennes in northern France. which will start production of a new small car, the Yaris, in

Toyota denied that its plans were being influenced by the **Business Editor**

the new euro zone, pointing out that production at its Burnaston plant in Derbyshire would rise to 200,000 cars this

But Juan José Diaz Ruiz, executive vice president of sales and marketing for Toyota Motor Europe, said: "Com-monsense says we like to plan long-term and if there is one currency across Europe it makes it easier for us to plan." France was selected for

Toyota's second car plant because the biggest market for small cars is in southern European countries such as Spain and Italy. Sites in eastern and central

Europe are now being examined for the third plant befact that Britain was outside cause those are the regions

where the biggest growth in demand is forecast to take place. Toyota plans to equip all the cars it builds in Europe with

engines from the Deeside plant. This means that production at Deeside will rise to 200,000 by the end of this year from 108,000 in 1998.

But it will double again to 400,000 a year once the Valenciennes factory is fully opera-tional. This will create about 200 jobs on top of the 3,200 that Toyota aiready employs at Burnaston and Deeside.

Toyota is also planning to cut the size of its 3,400-strong European dealer network by up to 25 per cent. This would reduce the number of dealerships by around 850.

In the UK Toyota has 240 Toyota dealerships and 55 dealerships selling the upmarket

Following its success in Europe last year, when Toyota's market share exceeded 3 per cent for the first time, the company has set itself the target of becoming one of Europe's five biggest car sellers in the next

Toyota aims to sell 600,000 cars in 1999 and 800,000 in 2005, giving it a 5 per cent market share. This year it is launching five new models and eight new engines in Europe.

Akira Imai, president of marketing and engineering for Toyota Motor Europe, said the company had no plans to merge with BMW or any other Western carmakers, even though Toyota's financial position is strong. In the six months to the

end of last September it made profits of Y403bn (£2.1bn), on sales of Y6.2 trillion

M&S meets City as job fears grow

Marks & Spencer chief executive, is to meet City analysts next week amid growing speculation that Britain's top retailer is to announce its first job cuts since

The company yesterday was forced to deny reports that it was poised to axe 800 senior and middle management staff in a bid to slash costs and increase effi-A spokeswoman said that the

stories were "purely speculative" and no decision had been taken over redundancies. She added that even if M&S was to reduce its workforce, "a figure of 800 people is totally beyond the realm of possibilities".

However, she conceded that the blue-chip retailer, which was rocked by a shock profit warning last month, could soon announce the results of a wide-ranging review of its busi-

PETER SALSBURY, the new By Francesco Guerrera

The internal inquiry, which is looking at cutting costs and restructuring M&S operations is not due to finish until June. However the sookeswoman suggested that some cost-cutting measures could be implemented before then. At the time of January's dis-

astrous trading statement, Mr. Salsbury said M&S would cut staff through natural wastage and only use redundancies as a last resort City analysts said that they

were expecting some staff reductions over the next few months. "Job losses would not come as a surprise. It is something we have been expecting for some time," one said.

The spokeswoman claimed that Mr Salsbury's tour of the City was a "meet and greet" exercise to present the new chief executive to top retail analysts.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

A ROLLER-COASTER session ended with Footsie holding a 62.2 points gain at 5,950.7. At one time it was riding 144 points higher but in busy trading the stock market was assailed by doubts and briefly the index fell into negative territory, down 8.3. Supporting shares made headway, particularly the small caps.

Lloyds TSB was the star, gaining 68p to 852.5p on its results and pulling other bank and financial shares higher. BT, on its call boom, rose a further 35p to 1,044.5p, a peak but Colt Telecom fell 61p to Derek Pain, page 20

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell, led by computer stocks, following a series of gloomy analyst predictions. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 15.45 points to 9348.01 in early trade, while the Nasdaq Composite Index fell 45,84 to

Shares in Dell Computer led the fallers after downbeat comments from Daniel Niles, a top-rated analyst at BancBoston Robertson Stephens. Dell dragged other computer stocks lower. "That's where the bubble in

the market is", said one trader.

● TOKYO

TOKYO'S BENCHMARK share index ended modestly higher, helped by strong gains in the banking sector. The Nikkei finished up 21.99 points, or 0.15 per cent, at 13,973.69.

Banking stocks made sizeable gains amid merger speculation, although a sharp fall in Japanese bond prices later in the day took the some of the shine off the sector – banks are among the major holders of Japanese bonds. Analysts attributed the bond price tumble to position-squaring ahead of a scheduled policy announcement from the Bank of Japan.

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN SHARES edged lower yesterday afternoon, with traders keeping a nervous eye on developments on Wall Street. The benchmark Bovespa index was trading down 43.03 points or 0.48 per cent at 8,947.10. Elsewhere, the Rio de Janeiro IBV index was down 473 at 30,619.

The Brazilian real continued to hold its own against the dollar, trading at 1.9, little changed from Thursday. Dealers said trade was thin ahead of the Carnival holiday. One said: "The market is calm, and there's not much happening."

FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES gave up strong early gains after a disappointing start on Wall Street. The electronic Xetra Dax closed up around half a percentage point at 4896.74, having been more than 2 per cent higher earlier in the day. The floor Dax. finished 1 per cent higher at 4,888.74.

Deutsche Telekom was the most actively traded stock, ending up. more than 5 per cent higher. The gains were triggered by the decision by the German telecoms regulator to raise the price at which Deutsche Telekom is allowed to rent local phone lines to rivals.

هكذامن الأمهار

Van Miert's radar locks on to BAe

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LONDON AND Brussels look like they are on a war footing again, this time over the British Aerospace-Marconi merger. Even though the deal is an all-British affair involving two defence companies, the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, has locked onto the target.

Mr Van Miert is a zealous regulator whose no-fly zone seems to get bigger by the day. He has therefore decided that the competition aspects of the deal merit examination in Brussels. In Westminster and Whitehall, meanwhile, the hackles are rising. Defence mergers are supposed to be one of the few areas where Brussels surrenders its powers of investigation to national competition authorities.

In the case of BAe and Marconi, the British government is in a delicate position. Whatever gloss Alistair Campbell may chose to put on it, it is clear that Tony Blair would have preferred to see pan-European consolidation taking place rather than the national champion Sir Dick Evans and Lord Simpson



OUTLOOK

came up with BAe and Marconi will not, therefore, automatically get an easy ride from regulators here.

But it would be understandable if the UK government weren't a little suspicious of the motives of the European Commission in wishing to examine the deal. The way Brussels colluded in the stitch up which allowed Electricité de France to take over London Electricity showed the Commission at its worst. Brussels cleared the deal in advance and then ignored the legitimate grounds cited by the UK authorities for wanting regulatory authority back.

on the trivial civil competition concerns raised by the BAe-Marconi merger to justify its interference.

Behind the scenes, it would not be surprising to discover that the big guns of Germany and France have been laying down a blanket of artillery in the direction of Brussels. The BAe-Marconi deal leaves both Daimler Benz Aerospace and Thomson CSF in the cold which is not something the politicians in Bonn or Paris like very much. Even though they may not be able to stop the deal, they can make life uncomfortable for BAe and Mar-

But the logic says the final arbiter should be London which will probably clear the deal after a littie huffing and puffing. The MoD may not like the idea of there being less competition for its custom. But at least it has the Americans to keep BAe-Marconi on its toes. Unlike its continental counterparts, Britain has not always fallen for defence contractors who wrap them-

selves in the national flag. The Treasury might like it even

bed with the Europeans since every defence procurement battle would become a foregone conclusion.

Banking mergers ANOTHER WEEK another banking merger? Well not quite. Yesterday, Sir Brian Pitman once again sent the hares running through the UK banking sector with the carefully phrased remark that

With the market itching for a deal, the remarks have been read as a clear signal that Lloyds, now that the integration of TSB is well in hand, is poised to strike - as Sir Brian, one of the most experienced men in the business, surely knew it would.

The question, as always, is where and when, and as far as that goes, Sir Brian was giving few clues, or at least deliberately contradictory ones.

There have been plenty of merg-

they have all been abroad, while here all we have had is an endless

diet of talk and precious little ac-Is that really about to change?

Sir Brian and his team have looked at everything both at home and abroad, and so far seen nothing that they particularly like. What they desperately need to make a merger stack up is for some of the weaker players to shed their illusions and resign themselves to their deserved fate. Given the "preconditions for banking mergers are more auspicious than they strength of yesterday's results, there is no doubt that in his mind that in the consolidation game he sees Lloyds as being predator

rather than prey.

So far the preoccupation within the UK banking sector has been primarily on its own backyard. But the government seems determined to block any mergers which bolster the position of the banks at the expense of the consumer - in other words, precisely the kind that the

City wants to see. Thursday's appointment of an American to head Barclays raises

This time Brussels has alighted less if BAe or Marconi jumped into ers in the last 18 months. But so far the intriguing possibility of a the trivial civil competition con-Brian for all his talk about how cross-border mergers can destroy value is surely not about to be bested by anyone, even a former US

BSkyB/Man Utd

THE INDEPENDENT Television Commission and its chief executive, Peter Rogers, have never been held in particularly high regard by the broadcasting companies they are supposed to regulate. In recent years, however, Britain's television companies have become increasingly frustrated with the industry watchdog. Its bureaucratic approach and insistence on regulating everything that appears on television are seen as being increasingly at odds with the new dig-

ital world of wide consumer choice. Nevertheless, even Mr Rogers' most vehement critics would not have thought the ITC capable of such a spectacular own goal by letting it be known that it had opposed

takeover of Manchester United in its submissions to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Of course, as the official regulator the ITC is entitled to its opinion on the subject. Unfortunately, it is not clear that Mr Rogers' view is entirely shared by his officials. In a hurried statement issued yesterday, the ITC argued that although it believed the takeover needed "careful investigation" a decision on the outcome of the enquiry was "a matter for the MMC

It seems that, while the ITC put forward a particular case in its submissions to the MMC. Mr Rogers embellished on those views when the panel asked him to explain

Mr Rogers has already crossed BSkyB once when the ITC forced the satellite broadcaster to withdraw from the winning consortium for the licence to operate digital terrestrial television. The odds on him surviving in his job beyond next week - when the ITC's main board meets - must be slim

for ider

AT&T set to sell its 22% stake in Telewest

T&T, THE US telecoms giant, s thought to be preparing to sell long-distance telecommuations business in the UK and its shareholding in relewest, the cable operator, as condition for the European

Commission clearing its \$10bn The commission is ready to give its formal approval to the pint venture, in a move that would clear one of the hurdles n BT and AT&T's attempts to market. chieve regulatory approval

The US Department of Jusce and the Federal Commuications Commission is still

The European Commission. which has been investigating he agreement since last Ocober, has concluded that the aliance should be allowed to go ahead provided that AT&T sells some of its assets in the UK.

Karel van Miert, the Euroean competition commissionreportedly told an audience n Belgium on Thursday evening that he was ready to clear the deal if the disposals were made.



Van Miret: Says an assets sale condition of alliance

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

A formal statement is expected in the next few weeks. The news raises the prospect of AT&T being forced to sell ACC, its subsidiary which sells long-distance telelliance with British Telecom. com services to UK business customers. The company, which employs 400 people, currently has approximately 2 per cent of the UK long-distance

> AT&T also has a 21.6 per cent stake in Telewest, the UK's second-largest telecom operator, as well as a UK communications business employing 500

AT&T is unlikely to object to the conditions as it is does not see the businesses as central to its objectives.

AT&T acquired ACC when it bought Teleport, the US local access operator. Meanwhile, it inherited the Telewest stake as the result of its acquisition of TCI, the US cable and media operator. According to analysts, ACC

would be likely to fetch several hundreds of millions of pounds for AT&T However, any sale is likely to incur a large tax charge for the US group because of the way in which it accounted for its merger with Teleport.

The stake in Telewest meanwhile, is currently worth more than £1bn and it is likely to be seen by other players in the cable industry as a possible launch pad for further consol-

An AT&T spokesman refused to comment yesterday. We cannot comment on the states of inquiries in the process of considering the venture," he said.

Ecuador abandons fixed exchange rate

DEALERS IN the currency markets vesterday claimed their second Latin American scalp of per cent. The interest rate inthe year, when Ecuador followed the example of Brazil and abandoned defence of its fixed

exchange rate. The Ecuadorean sucre tumbled almost 20 per cent after the central bank said it would stop maintaining fixed trading bands against the dollar.

Speaking at a press conference in Quito, Luis Jacome, he pe of the central bank, said the authorities would still intervene in the currency markets if the sucre came under speculative attack. According to Mr Jacome, the devaluation will help preserve Ecuador's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

The central bank has spent close to \$200m over the last month attempting to defend the sucre, and also hiked short -term interest rates to more than 100

By Lea Paterson

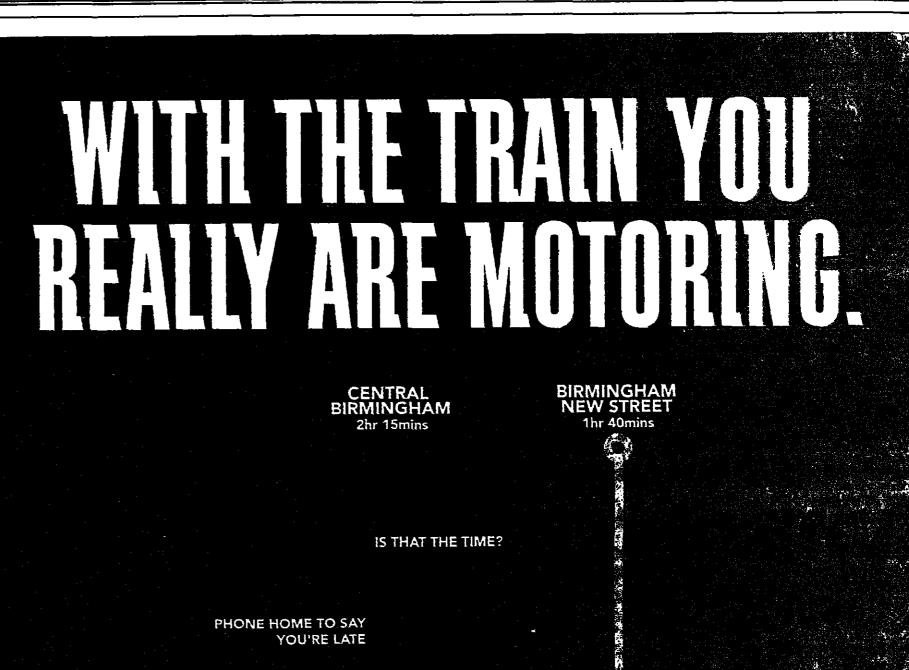
creases crippled economic growth, and precipitated the closure of several banks.

"What they [were] doing with the exchange rate is suicidal," said Michael Henry, an economist at ING Barings, speaking

before the devaluation. Ecuador's central bank chief argued that the devaluation should allow interest rates to fall. although analysts said that the experience of Brazil - where rates are still high - suggested this may not be the case.

Analysts were also sceptical of Mr Jacome's claim that devaluation would not jeopardise attempts to bring down inflation running at over 40 per cent.

Yesterday's devaluation follows the resignation on Thursday of Ecuador's finance minister, Fidel Jaramillo.



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Footsie fades despite early boost from banks

BANKS BOLSTERED the stock market. At one time Footsie was riding 144 points higher, with the Lloyds TSB figures inspiring the banking sector and encouraging other blue chips to move ahead.

All that was needed to ensure another high performance session was further progress in New York, But, at least during London bours, the Americans failed to oblige.

Footsie reversed into the red, recording an 8.3 fall, before staging a rally, closing at 5,950.7, up 62.2.

Supporting shares stayed in positive territory with the mid cap index edging forward 0.7 to 5,187.7 and the small cap continuing its recovery run with an 11.2 advance to 2.237.

However, if the bankers had not been in such exhilarating form, progress would have been much more muted. Lloyds kicked off the banking profits season with a much more confident display than at

INTRIGUING **DEVELOPMENTS** are rumoured at perennial Irish oil punt, Bula

Resources, unchanged at 1.25p. Albert Reynolds, the former Irish premier, is said to be on the verge of becoming chairman. In a further shake-up two other newcomers will join the board with three directors quitting. A cash-raising exercise is also likely and there is talk of oil developments in Libya and Iraq. Bula was last above

one time seemed likely. It offered clear hints that the market may not to have to wait too long for its next major takeover. The shares, at one time up 83.5p, ended 68p high-

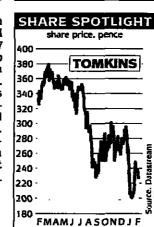
2p two years ago.

Bardays, still drawing support from the arrival of new chief executive Michael O'Neill, jumped 96p to 1,516p and Bank of Scotland gained

The banking excitement had a shaky time after a land-



PAIN



spread to other financials with Allied Zurich, 62.5p to 911p, and Legal & General, 46p to 876p, in form.

But elsewhere among the Footsie constituents it was a more subdued end to the day with Colt Telecom leading the retreat with a 61p fall to Scottish & Newcastle, de-

BT continued to reflect its call boom, hitting another peak with a 35p gain to 1,044.5p in busy trading. The shares have come up from 326p three

spite Dresdner Kleinwort

Benson support, lost 28.5p fall

IT shares managed moderate headway in the wake of New York's overnight surge. Admiral added 70p to 1,355p but Misys, displaying its US operations to analysts next week, fell 22p to 587p.

Tomkins, the so-called buns-to-guns conglomerate,

mark US court ruling found hand-gun makers liable over shootings in New York. Around 25 makers were prosecuted including Tomkins Smith & Wesson off-shoot.

facing legal expenses as well as potential damages payments. The shares, at one time down 16p, ended 4.75p off at 229.75p helped, no doubt, by the group's share buy-back programme which embraced another 500,000 at 228,5p.

British American Tobacco, too, was under negative US influences. The astonishing \$51.5m judgement in favour of stubbed BAT 9.5p to 579p. Gallaher fell 8p to 414.5p and Imperial Tobacco 4.5p to

General Electric Co, down 26p to 505.5p, was unsettled by indications its Marconi merger with British Aerospace will come up against the regula-tors of Brussels. BAe, which believes the deal is "entirely a matter" for the British Govmment, was lowered 14.5p to

BAA, the airports group, was grounded by a large stock overhang. The shares fell

WPP was one to benefit from an expected profits announcement next week. The advertising group hardened 21.25p to 472p. Around £210m against £177.4m is the likely outcome. Even Rank, the struggling leisure group, perked up ahead of results. It is expected to suffer a £45m fall to £258m. The shares rose 4.25p to 203.25p.

Engineers fell back as takeover excitement faded; Morgan Crucible lost 11.5p to 211p and Vickers 6.5p 138.5p. Builders remained strong, reflecting the low interest age. Barratt Developments firmed 5p to 271.5p and Berkeley 23.5p to 588.5p. Berisford, the kitchen and

catering equipment group, ended 7p higher at 205.5p after rejecting a break-up approach.

Advanced A4 colour scanner also works as a photocoper and lax machine (RIPP \$119)

games group, was up to its old tricks, surging 56.5p to 155p. The shares, a notoriously narrow market, started the year at 12.5p, subsequently hitting The ruling will almost cer- 273.5p before resting at tainly encourage more court around 100p. A possible link cases, with the gun makers with Nintendo was responsible for the latest jump. The company said talks were in "an advanced stage" for the right to

> Profit warnings hit Ultima Networks 1p to 2.5p and Birse, a construction group, 2p

become the developer for Nin-

Austin menswear retailer which has fallen sharply in the past year, a cancer sufferer, who sued the smartened up with a 11.5p Philip Morris tobacco giant. gain to 99p. The market was puzzled by some small but persistent buying orders. Last

year the shares touched 215p.

Desire Petroleum, riding at 445p last year on hopes of Falkland Islands oil, fell 1.5p to 16.5p, a low.

CCI, THE old clay pigeon business suspended at 125p, is planning to return to market as a computer group. It is taking over software and hardware distributors and will become XKO Group. As part of the deal £13m is being raised through a share placing. The revamp Simon Beart who become deputy chairman and finance director. CCI shares arrived on AIM in 1996 and moved between 108p and 190p.

London & Edinburgh Publishing held at 10.75p. It placed, through Townsley & Co., 1.1 million shares at 11p. On Monday the company, thought to be in talks for a substantial acquisition, produced an upbeat trading statement indicating profits for last year could approach £400,000.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.17bn SEAQ TRADES: 96152 GILTS: 114.61 -1.12



Masuru Hayami, Bank of Japan governor, cut lending rates for banks Popperfoto/Reuters

Japan springs surprise rate cut to 0.25%

THE BANK of Japan took action yesterday to try to boost the deemergency and overnight lending rates for banks and providing extra funds to the money

The surprise moves came a week ahead of a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial countries in Bonn. Finance ministers and central bankers will be focussing on how to revive the ailing Japanese economy, a precondition for restoring economic stability in the rest of South-east Asia.

The Bank of Japan's measures yesterday should take the sting out of criticism of the country's policies by its G7 partners. But the Bank's board rejected some politicians' proposals that it should buy Japanese gov-

ernment debt in the market. This would have eased monetary conditions and helped bring long-term interest rates, which have climbed in recent

BY DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

back down.

The Bank's reluctance to do more to curb the rise in longterm bond yields in Japan hit bond markets in the US and Europe, where prices fell steeply. The Bank of Japan halved the

rate on its emergency lending facility to 0.25 per cent, and cut the rate on overnight loans in the Interbank market to 0.15 per cent from 0.25 per cent. It also said it would inject extra funds into the money markets in order to ease credit conditions.

In a statement Masaru Hayami, the governor, said he hoped the moves would take long-term rates lower and thus help boost the economy. The official discount rate remained unchanged

at its record low of 0.5 per cent. The announcement initially the Yen115 mark, but it later fell

suries fell. Analysts were sceptical that the rate cuts would help the economy, now in its second full year of recession. David Brickman at PaineWebber said: "It smacks of desperation. It is a tacit admission that the econ-

omy remains in dire straits." Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives. said extra liquidity was unlikely to help the economy until Japanese banks had strengthened their balance sheets and

More and more economists, such as Paul Krugman, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, favour radical measures - including the repurchase of government bonds to "monetise" the debt.

were able to lend to customers.

But until recently the US administration had opposed easier monetary policies that might weaken the yen and consequently widen the US trade gap. sent the dollar a yen higher; past In the past two weeks, US officials have started urging mon-

BAe warns of threat to arms division 6

gughy Union:

BY MICHAEL HARRISON **Business Editor**

BRITISH AEROSPACE IS DIESSing the Government for assurances about future orders for its Royal Ordnance division amid speculation that the ailing armaments business may be bought by a rival German supplier Ministers are being warned

that the entire future of RO which employs 4,000 staff at 12 plants, will be in danger if the Ministry of Defence places further ammunition and explosives orders abroad rather than supporting its home supplier.

RO's Bishopton factory in Scotland is already closing with the loss of 400 jobs after the Mou artillery shell propellants with the South African firm Denet.
The head of the Germanian.

nitions supplier, Rheimmettal, said earlier this week that it was interested in buying RO. Basin. sisted yesterday that although it had been in discussions with Rheimmetall for a year, these had been about a joint venture, not an outright sale.

Referring to remarks made by Hans Brauner, chief executive of Rheimmetall, at a press conference on Thursday night, a BAe spokesman said: "If Rheinmetall have other ideas in mind we have not received them. We want them to put down a firm proposal. We have been talking: for a year now and we still have not got one."

RO supplies everything from ammunition for small arms, mortars and tanks, to rifles, rocket motors and depthcharges. It also owns the German sub-machine gun man facturer Heckler and Koch.

BAe bought the business 10 years ago from the Government for £190m. Since then it has closed or sold 10 Royal Ordnance sites and slashed the workforce by 80 per cent. Over the same period, its annual work load from the MoD has shrunk from £350m to £150m.

A BAe spokesman said that keeping RO as a standalone ooeration remained an option but it depended on what strategic capability in munitions supply the MoD wanted Britain to re-

IN BRIEF

Setback in beer duty battle

THE COURT of Appeal yesterday refused to refer the brewer Shepherd Neame's fight against recent beer duty increases to the European Court of Justice. The Kent-based brewer claimed the increases were incompatible with European law and sought to win a reversal of an earlier High Court decision upholding the increases in duty. The trade director Jonathan Neame said the brewer would seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Fibernet placing

FIBERNET, the supplier of electronic network systems, has placed 975,000 new shares at 446p a share raising £4.35m before expenses, which will be used to extend its UK telecoms network and increase working capital. The placing expands the existing share capital by about 2.5 per cent.

Torex profits up

TOREX, the former plant-hire specialist which was reborn as an IT company in 1997, pushed up pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £3.3m in its first full-year as a pure computer business, after excluding the profit from the sale of the old business in the previous year. Operating profit from ongoing businesses rose 96 per cent to £3.4m. The medical division doubled in size, the retail division expanded and a new services division was created.

Correction

A NUMBER of readers have asked us to point out a factual inaccuracy in the Business Outlook column of 12 January. The effective rise in the BAT Industries share price since demerger was not, as stated, threefold, but 60 per cent. We apologise for any confusion caused by this

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X- div
Bisse Group (f) Lloyds TSB Groep (F) Lendon Fortalling Co (F) Tarax (F)	17,080m (15,931m) 193,718m(220,953m) -(-) 1,527b(2,287b) 21,770m(21,029m) - Quarterly (SP) - Split (1.852m (0.543m) -1.861m(2.086m) 3.285b(2.885b) -56.613m(38.479m) 2.962m(7.277m) Period (N) - Nine Months	7.2p (2.3p) -0.8p(0.8p) 42.4p(40.1p) -48.78p(29.95p) 6.8p(16.2p)	- (-) 0 3p(0.3p) 22-2p(17-2p) 6.0p(12-3p) 2.5p(2-3p)	04.05.99 05.05.99 14.05.99	29.03.99 22.02.99 08.03.99

This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). This notice should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus dated 12 February 1999 (the "Prospectus") which contains details of recommended Proposals for inter alia a Bonus Issue and redesignation of share capital. It does not constitute an offer or invitation to the public to subscribe for, or purchase, any shares in Murray Smaller Markets Trust PLC (the "Company"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for up to 339 million Ordinary Shares and 2.4 million 8 Ordinary Shares to be admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange and for half of such Ordinary Shares and B Ordinary Shares in issue following Admission to be immediately redesignated as Zero Dividend Preference Shares resulting in up to 196.7 million Ordinary Shares, 1.2 million B Ordinary Shares and 197.7 million Zero Dividend Preference Shares. The actual number of such shares will depend upon the Formula Asset Value of the Company on or about 11 March 1999. The prices of the Ordinary Shares, B Ordinary Shares, Zero Dividend Preference Shares, Ordinary Units and B Ordinary Units will be quoted separately on the Official List. It is expected that Admission will become effective, and that dealings will commence, on 19 March 1999.

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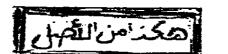
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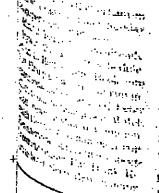


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Rugby Union: Former Lions manager sets out on mission to restore 'culture' of the English game



Fran Cotton: 'The Scottish, Welsh and Irish are our rugby friends, yet we have been completely duplicitous with them. We have tried to act like bully boys and they don't like it'

Cotton leads the call for change

o talks

raltar

FRAN COTTON in a line-out on the 1977 British Lions tour of New Zealand, looking like a creature recently risen from a primeval swamp. is one of the most indelible of all sporting images. But now Cotton believes that his beloved rugby union in a mire even deeper and dirtier is in a mire even deeper and of an that one in Wellington. On Thursday morning Cotton -

once as formidable a loose-head prop as international rugby has seen, and more recently an equally formidable manager of the Lions tour to South Africa - picked me up at Macclesfield station in Cheshire. His sleek Mercedes offered a hint that Cotton Traders, the clothing company he founded 12 years ago with his former England colleague Steve Smith, is thriving mightily.

As we cruised towards the Cotton Traders empire in Altrincham, Cotton's carphone rang. Suddenly the Merc was filled with the deep and unmistakable voice of Bill Beaumont, calling to register his dismay at the state of English rugby.

Cotton believes that the management board of the Rugby Football Union is leading the game - if, he swiftly adds, it can be said to show any leadership qualities at all to disarray. He is one of the most powerful advocates of the so-called Reform Group, whose stated objective is to depose the board, to introduce policies designed to win back the trust of the Scottish. Welsh and Irish rugby unions, and to re-



BRIAN VINER

store the "culture" of the game in

While it is impossible to imagine Cotton actually turning cartwheels, he certainly shed no tears at this week's news that Sir John Hall is to sell his rugby interests at Newcastle. "Sir John and other investors filled a massive vacuum that was created when professionalism was introduced in a totally ill-considered way," said Cotton.

In the Cotton Traders boardroom, he warmed to his theme. starting with the "fiasco" of England's brief expulsion from the Five Nations tournament. "That must be the biggest embarrassment in rugby history," he said. "To be expelled, and then reinstated within 15 hours only because they were forced to accept unequivocally the Five Nations accord, which should never have been broken in the first

allow yourself to get backed into a corner like that."

The Scottish, Welsh and Irish unions were entitled to feel aggrieved with the English stance, added Cotton who, nearly a year ago, resigned in disgust as vicechairman of the management board. "These people are our rugby friends, we've been playing them for years, yet we have been completely duplicitous with them. We have tried to act like bully boys. And they are proud men, they don't like

"Besides, it would have been a disaster to replace the Five Nations with a super-tournament for England, France, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, as some of the management board wanted. Scotland, Ireland and Wales being strong ought to be as important to us as it is to them.

"We should be working to expand European rugby. It is fantastic that Italy is joining the Five Nations, that a game still perceived as Anglo-Saxon suddenly has a Latin country involved. Now let's work on Germany. We have millions of people to market the game to in Europe. In the southern hemisphere there are an

awful lot of sheep." The RFU's deal with Sky television, Cotton added, "has been an absolute disaster for the game, dividing the five nations at a time

£87.5m five-year Sky deal, quite aside from alienating the other home nations, was commercially unsound. His reasoning seemed to make plenty of sense. In matters of finance, 6ft 4in, 18-stone former maths teachers with £22m of business interests generally do make

"First of all, the deal that the Celts did with the BBC was actually far better," said Cotton, "Last Saturday, the BBC had 6.6 million viewers for the double-header [Ireland v France and Scotland v Wales with not a white shirt in sight]. Before Christmas, when England played the world champions, there were 500,000 viewers on Sky. So it is clearly not a good deal in terms of selling the

"Then there is the £4.1 million given each year to the professional clubs. Who decided on that figure? It is an inflated value and it does the game a great disservice, because all it is doing is fuelling the rampant payment of players.

Below a certain level, the game will only survive by staying amateur. Take my old club Newton le Willows. They have lost 10 players to Southport because Southport are paying them 30 quid a week. It's a crazy situation. I went to a meeting at another of my old clubs, Liverpool St Helens, and they are just overwhelmed by it all. They don't want have to have a certain number of

will. But they can't afford it. We need a blanket ban on the payment of players below a certain level, and funding should instead go into clubhouses and youth policies.

"Look at Billy Beaumont's club,

Fylde. They get £250,000 a year from the Sky pot and it's destroyed them. They are trying to recruit players and be professional but it's an amateur club, and now they find they're having to sell the pitch to survive. Waterloo are having to sell the back pitch. We need to take the petrol can away and say: 'If you want to keep the fire burning, find the coal yourself.' I tell you, they'll welcome it.

"Then the entire game will be funded by international rugby, with the interests of professional rugby properly catered for, and a small area of semi-professional rugby in which clubs can use local sponsorship to reward players.

"But professionalism will only account for one per cent of the game. The remaining 99 per cent will return to the amateur principles that allowed this game to thrive. Otherwise the tragedy that is about to befall rugby league, in which a super-league gets all the money and the rest are left to get on with it, will happen to us."

Cotton also believes that professional playing regulations have damaged rugby's grass roots. "They when we needed unity of purpose". to stop paying travelling expenses subs on the bench, front row cover, up its act as quickly.

place. In business, you would never Moreover, he maintained that the because someone down the road so there are lots of lads not getting a game. And naturally they lose interest. Orrell very often can't get fixtures for their second and third XVs, clubs that used to run eight teams are down to three. The game is in crisis and desperate for posi-

tive leadership."

If the Reform Group gets a chance to provide that leadership. it will devolve the day-to-day running of rugby to four provincial unions, explained Cotton. "The current league system doesn't work because of the distances involved. Twickenham doesn't know how to run rugby in the north of England, its proposals show it doesn't even know the geography of the place. They can run the international side and govern the game, and autonomous provincial unions will look after the day-to-day

affairs. As for the top end of the game, if the ERU were to stand up and say that it is fully supportive of the International Rugby Board, and that the Five - soon-to-be Six - Nations is the collective property of those nations, relations with our international partners would be transformed overnight."

As I took my leave of the Cotton Traders boardroom, following Cotton's impressively articulate and impassioned monologue, I asked him about that famous 1977 photograph of him in New Zealand. It took him three days to get all the mud off. non-heavyweight star in boxing and he said. Would that rugby could clean | continuing his unbeaten run tonight

Calzaghe provides the main attraction

By Glyn Leach

RUUD GULLITS heavily hyped in troduction of "sexy" football to the North-cast may have boosted sup port for tonight's world champi onship boxing promotion in Newcastle. The main eventers, Joe Calzaghe and Robin Reid, are, after all, uncommonly handsome given the nature of their trade, and their combined style might have outweighed the lack of substance left in a fight card hit hard by a series of

Only two of the originally adver-tised four world title fights now re-main, following the cancellation of contests featuring Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, and Harry Simon, the WBO's light-middleweight titleholder. The 13-fight card is now headlined by Calzaghe's third defence of the WBO super-middleweight title against Reid, plus Richie Woodhall's second defence of the World Boxing Council version of the 12-stone championship, against the eccentric Italian Vincenzo Nardiello, a former holder of this title

"It's the business we're in." complained the promoter, Frank Warren. "In football, if a player gets injured, the team still plays. I'm not happy: But we've still had a great response from the people of Newcastle." He predicts a near-sell-out at the 10,800seat Telewest Arena.

Warren had successfully featured established stars such as Nigel Benn and Naseem Hamed in Newcastle previously, but tonight's contestants are from the next generation, fighters who have been developed on satellite rather than terrestrial TV It is, therefore, heartening for Warren that this show has been so well supported at the box office.

But this is hardly the dream return to the big stage that Warren had been hoping for following the settlement, at a cost of £7.5m, of his 14partner Don King, and his increasngly acrimonious split with Hamed.

Calzaghe, 27, replaces Hamed as the star of Warren's stable. The Gwent southpaw, unbeaten in 25 ghts (23 KOs), is fast, vicious and hard-hitting, as shown by his titlewinning fight against Chris Eubank in October 1997, and two defences last year before being sidelined by hand injuries.

But Calzaghe's attempts to emulate Hamed's extravagant ring entrances are proving nothing short of embarrassing. It would be crass to judge him so were it not for the premium Calzaghe himself places upon such superficialities. Much of Calzaghe's pre-fight banter has centred on a belief that he is "better looking" than 27-year-old Reid, a former WBC champion and part-time male model who has won 26 of 28 fights (one loss, one draw, 18 KOs). It is likely that Reid will look the worse for wear after 12 tough rounds. Calzaghe should retain by decision, as should the 30-year-old Woodhall, who has a point to prove following a lacklustre performance last time out. Sky TV will be less than happy

with the disintegration of the British half of a transatlantic pay-per-view double-header that also features Oscar De La Hova's WBC welterweight title defence against Ike Quartey in Las Vegas. Sky has already suffered a major body blow this week when Hamed signed away worldwide TV rights to the American cable giant Home Box Office, with whom Sky must now negotiate in order to continue televising Hamed's fights. But De La Hoya is the biggest will afford Sky some comfort.

The dangers of planning ahead in Rotherham

DETAILED PLAN. Detailed plan. Forgive me. but I get uncomfortable when I see those words together. Because in my experience, you can say only one thing with certainty about a detailed plan, it won't happen. Let me share with you, by way

of evidence, Rotherham. That is, my trip to Rotherham on half of a sadly defunct Sunday newspaper some years ago.

Admit it. You're hooked already. Anyway, this was the schedule: Get up to Rotherham. Book into hotel. Find park where fun run involving local-lad-made-good, Peter Elliott, is due to take place. Watch Elliott, newly installed Commonwealth 1500 metres champion, run. Then interview him about prospects for coming season. Eat. Drink. Return to hotel. Sleep. Return home.



MIKE **ROWBOTTOM**

Hardly an excruciatingly detailed plan, I grant you. But quite complex enough to unravel The hotel was, effectively, a boarding house with add-ons, and after I went in, the speaker by my bed began playing Radio 1 at maximum volume. My reactions in such cases are usually spot on. With some judicious pressing of

buttons, I quashed the noise in a Elliott was already there when I got to the park, but something in his

face betrayed trouble. His Achilles tendon was playing up again. All very disappointing. But he would contribute to the charity fund-raising occasion by getting the field of several-hundred strong under way.

So the Olympian found himself standing on a podium with a starting pistol raised high above his head -a starting pistol that, for some reason, he was unable to fire. He fidmy room was in a separate block died with it a bit as the dense mass be cautious.

close to the main building. Soon of runners waited, the pressure of bodies forcing those at the front to tip over the line. Then he raised his arm and tried again. Nothing.

By now, the front markers had advanced 20 yards to accommodate the gathering momentum of those behind, and as Elliott, face flushing beneath his cropped ginger hair, made one more hopeless attempt, the will of the people became indomitable and the whole mass of runners straggled on their way.

Afterwards, the embarrassed Olympian explained that, as he had said, his Achilles tendon was playing up again, but that he was hoping for the best and there was no reason to suppose he wouldn't be back to full training within the week. Although you always had to Quite a scoop, I'm sure you'll

The eating and drinking bits went smoothly. Particularly the drinking bits, as I recall.

Odd thing, but the location of the hotel seemed to have changed by the time I made my way back. The landmarks of the railway station and shopping precinct never registered on my screen, and I found myself exploring mysterious, suburban avenues under the yellow flare of street lights. A fine rain began to fall - the kind you hardly register until you realise your collar is soaked.

It was after midnight by the time I got back. The main entrance was locked and the lights were off. to hear him. I buzzed the buzzer for several minutes. It appeared to be in the same working order as Elliott's pistol.

There was nothing else for it. If I couldn't get the key to my room, at least I could get under cover, so I made my way into the sub-boarding house, climbed the stairs and curled up in my wet coat outside my

door As you do. Sleep did not come easily. But it departed effortlessly at 5am when the speaker by my bed burst into life. Radio I again, and even through the door it sounded very loud indeed.

A door opened down the corridor and a man in pyjamas with stickyup hair stared at me without saying anything. I assume he didn't say anything, although if he had said anything I would have been unable

The radio switched itself off after a few minutes. And back on again a few minutes later. And off again.

Perhaps someone had been fiddling about with the alarm buttons. Someone...

Let me share with you, by way of further evidence. Grimsby. That is, my trip to Grimsby on behalf of the same Sunday newspaper some years ago.

The idea was to interview Steve Cram, who was taking part in the Northern Championships, only that plan had to be altered as he pulled out at short notice with a calf problem, so I switched may attention to the up-and-coming middle-distance runners Craig Winrow and Paul Burgess, only as it turned out they had a bad day and finished well down

the field, which meant I had to... On second thoughts, I won't tell you about Grimsby. You've probably got the picture by now.

Cautious

approach

followed

by Giants

BASKETBALL

SHEFFIELD SHARKS are wary

of losing ground in the Bud-

weiser League title race this

weekend to the joint leaders,

Manchester Giants, but else-

where the focus will be on the

commission of inquiry meeting

to decide punishments follow

ing the "battle of Northgate".

Despite the cautious ap-

proach of their coach, Nick

Nurse, the Giants must be

odds-on for maximum points

from tonight's game at Wor-

thing Bears and tomorrow's

visit from Leicester City Riders.

by the Giants in their midweek

uni-ball Trophy semi-final, first

leg, face a difficult trip to third-

A far more daunting week-

end awaits Derby Storm and

Chester Jets, whose game at

the Northgate Arena two weeks

ago was halted after 28 seconds

by fighting between both sets of players. The commission ex-

pects to announce their deci-

sion on Monday, which could

include fines, suspensions and

Any appeals from the clubs

or individuals would theoreti-

cally lead to the suspension of

any punishment on players or

coaches involved. The Derby

coach, Bob Donewald, for ex-

ample, is facing a minimum

four game ban pending appeals

and his club defend a 13-point

lead at Leicester on Thursday

in the second leg of their uni-

ball Trophy semi-final.

deduction of points.

placed Thames Valley Tigers

But the Sharks, beaten 81-77

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

Rugby Union: Reform Group's plan for Anglo-centric clubs at odds with players' foreign approval

Melting pot's successful recipe

GO ON, inchalge yourself. Pick an Allied Dunbar Premiership XV based not on reputation, but exclusively on current form; a multi-faceted, multi-national side you would happily send into battle this very afternoon with your life in their hands. Many locals on the team-sheet? No, thought not. You would have to be a one-eyed Old Harrovian with John Bull underwear and a Kipling obsession to even dream of selecting a home-grown back division, let alone a native outside-half. Maybe the prophets of doorn are right: perhaps the English are facing meltdown in the melting pot.

It is an issue that is likely to burst wide open once again in the coming weeks as our old friends the politicians prepare to bombard us with more heavy shelling from the trenches. The Rugby Football Union's Reform Group is proposing the establishment of a new generation of "super clubs" with up to 90 per cent of the places ring-fenced for England-qualified players. Can it be right, they ask, that the most complete stand-offs on view each Saturday should be two former-All Blacks, two Frenchmen and an ambitious little thirtysomething from Pietermaritzburg? Good question.

Of course, the balloon realasks Joel Stransky to attach a red rose to the very part of his breast that once bore a dancing Springbok. There is no doubt that in a perfect world, the England coach would not contemplate asking Leicester's hugely accomplished South African to steer the country with the biggest playing population on the planet through the highs and lows of this year's World Cup. Imperfection is the curse of the age, though. It now seems clear that Woodward will indeed bite the pragmatic bullet if he decides there is no alternative. You have to feel for the bloke. His predicament merely underlines the knickertwisting complexity of the foreign legion debate.

'It's very difficult, all this," Woodward agreed this week. "I know what I think should be happening. I think that the clubs and the union should be standing on the same side of the international level. I think that Premiership its uniqueness. the union should be pumping money into the clubs, in much the same way as the Test and County Cricket Board helps finance the counties. I still look at other rugby nations and envy the systems they have put in place to ensure a flow of talent through the ranks.

shove, I have to come at things er has to make his mark both as a professional coach running on the field and in how he ina professional team, even though I'm effectively having to

BY CHRIS HEWETT

do it through 12 or 14 other companies and have no real input into what goes on with the players in so far as no club coach is likely to select according to my wishes. In the end, England expects. Especially in World Cup year. This is a business enterprise as well as a sporting one and there are a lot of things at stake, not least my job. If someone like Stransky is geminely the best man for the task and the regulations allow me to pick him, then I'd be daft not to consider it. "I fully accept, though, that

it would be an indictment of our own system. I've nothing against foreign players earning their living in the Premiership; as long as clubs aren't picking them over and above English talent just because they happen to be paying them a fortune, then fine. But I get a little impatient with the constant comparisons with football. Rugby isn't at all like football. Football is a level playing field; most major football leagues are stacked with imports. It's different with rugby. You don't see outsiders playing Super 12 rugby, do you?" No one knows better than

Woodward how the purplefaced traditionalists are likely to react if he rejects Little Engly will go up if Clive Woodward landism and clambers into bed with the open door brigade; so ago that the coach himself was banging the nationalist drum like Buddy Rich on steroids.

But 18 long months in the political crossfire have changed him. There are, he now realises, no simple answers or cosy solutions. Only differences of

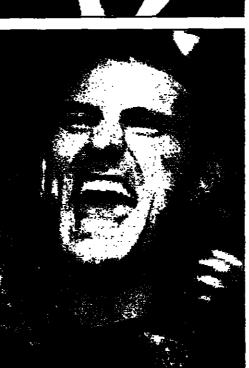
The import problem, if indeed it is a problem, is merely one of the more pressing in an Joost van der Westhuizen, Gary Teichmann, Josh Kronfeld, Ian Jones and dear old Jonah Long have all been linked with moves to England after the World Cup. If Van der Westhuizen goes to Saracens and Teichmann to Wasps, what happens to Kyran Bracken and Lawrence Dallaglio? Will they stay, or will they go?

On the other hand, virtually fence and working together to every England Test regular and Michael Lynagh for a seaproduce the best possible con- revels in the heady cultural

outside the game," says Jeremy Guscott in this month's Rugby World magazine. "Premiership players all believe the foreign signings have had a big impact on the professional game over here. The "But when push comes to way I see it, an overseas playtegrates into the club and com-









Six of the best currently playing in Premiership One (clockwise from top left): Conor O'Shea of Ireland, South African Brendan Venter, New Zealander Steve Bachop, Pat Lam of Samoa, England's own Lawrence Dallaglio and Federico Mendez of Argentina

Allsport

"Francois Pienaar had cleardone this. Others, like Trevor Leota, took a little time to settle, but is now doing a tremendous job."

Ask Bracken, for instance, to put a price on the experience of playing between Pienaar son and he will quote you the ditions for England's success at and tactical mix that gives the rugby equivalent of seven figures. Ask young David Flatman, "Negative comments about one of the brightest front-row overseas players come from prospects to emerge in many years (and a pure-bred Englishman from Kent, to boot) what it means to learn the tricks of the trade from Roberto Grau, and he will answer you

in a single word: "Everything." And it is not just in England that the mood is changing; the ultra-conservative Celts are suddenly very right-on when it comes to recruitment. It will not be long before the Scots field a least you have the choice.

side with barely a real Scot in it: you will wait a very long time for an "och aye" from Glenn Metcalfe, Shaun Longstaff, John Leslie, Matthew Proudfoot, Martin Leslie or Gordon Simpson. As for Ireland, no fewer than 11 of the side who xushed France to within a point in Dublin a week ago are either playing their rugby in the English Premiership or did so in the previous 12 months.

So, in answer to an earlier question, we have not reached meltdown point. Rather, the melting pot is bubbling away to the benefit of most, if not all. You may not agree with the

Premiership XV published here: you might prefer Keith Wood to Federico Mendez. Kevin Putt to Bracken, Zinzan Brooke to Pat Lam. Stransky to Stephen Bachop. So what? At

CHRIS HEWETT'S PREMIERSHIP XV 15 Conor O'Shea (London 10 Steve Bachop (London Irish

Irish and Ireland): Gavin Hastings on speed. A buccaneering full-back to die for.

14 Justin Bishop (London most, more confident than any and bristling with aggression.

13 Rob Henderson (Wasps and Ireland): A tank on legs. Nothing false or cosmetic, apart from his day-glo hair.

12 Brendan Venter (London Irish and South Africa): The complete inside centre: completely committed, complete-

11 Niali Woods (London Irish and Ireland): Great finishing. terrific goal-kicking. The Irish are mad not to pick him.

and New Zealand): Monster talent. Better conductor than Solti and enough vision to fill

9 Kyran Bracken (Saracens and England): Operating on all four cylinders. The best scrum-half in Europe on current estimates.

ter and English): A new kid on the Kingsholm block, but putting his powder-puff clubmates to

Federico Mendez (Northampton and Argentina): Hated Bath, loves Franklins Gardens. A happy Freddy is one danger-

3 Paul Wallace (Saracens and (reland): Quick, intelligent, highiv skilled. Can this be a prop forward we're talking about?

and England): Back on song. More dependable than a best mate, more threatening than a worst enemy. 5 Maicoim O'Kelly (London

Irish and Ireland): A new-age lock: more Michael Jordan than Bill Beaumont,

> 6 Lawrence Dallaglio (Wasps and England): On the boil or off it, the warrior king remains an inspiration. A born leader.

Hartlepool and New Zealand A): The "Mooloo Man" flies in, the no-hopers start fronting up. A

8 Pat Lam (Northampton and Western Samoa): Need a winning try in the last minute? Give it to

Pat, he'll see you home. Brilliant.

Hounslow in need of points

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

FOR HOUNSLOW this weekend's double Premier League fixtures are probably the most crucial in the club's long and distinguished history. Defeat at home last weekend by Bournville leaves them three points adrift of the Midland club in the relegation play-off position. Points from today's away game at Reading and the visit of Guildford to 1, morrow are badly needed.

The manager, Paul King, confirmed that the Seoul gold medallist, Jon Potter, who has come out of retirement to help the club, will be playing both days and that the Canadian goal, keeper Hari Kant is back from international duty in Egypt.

King said: "Let's hope the tide has changed. Points will be difficult at Reading and anything will be a bonus. It is essential we take three off Guildford." With Guildford's player-coach, Ian Jennings, looking for two more goals to become the first player to score 200 in league games, it will not be easy. Southgate, who lost 5-2 to Reading last week, visit Guildford today and entertain East Grinstead tomorrow. They again expect to be without their , latest signing, the Australian in 🕻 . ternational Max Diamond

Surbiton, the new First Division leaders, will be looking for victory over Hampststead and Westminster before their South African imports return home for internationals against Australia.

Leicester face examination by Irish imagination

of the season has arrived five weeks early. Until very recently, this campaign was all about next month's tête-à-tête between Northampton and Leicester at Franklins Gardens; a raw slab of East Midlands tribalism that appeared to represent the Saints' one realistic chance of reeling in the long-time title favourites from the wrong side of the county line. No one gave a second thought to London Irish. Or a third thought, or a fourth.

Since when, everyone in rueby has started thinking - and talking - about the Irish. They

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the home of sport

have gatecrashed the mind's eye with the quicksilver imagination of their attacking play and selfless deeds of defensive his pomp, they have won nine 16,000 sell-out at Welford Road. was being deadly serious. It is almost as breathtaking to watch these Exiles as it must be

to play for them. All of which probably explains why Best, crafty old fox

es," he mused yesterday. "They have seven internationals in their pack and their defence has conceded far fewer points than derring-do. With Dick Best at anyone else. They will probably the helm. Steve Bachop at the be worthy champions." The fulcrum and Conor O'Shea in coach rarely reveals his entire hand and he is not wholly unof their last 10 league matches familiar with the black arts of going into this afternoon's near-kidology, but on this occasion he

Not least because Best has three of his form players -Nick Burrows, Kieron Dawson and Malcolm O'Kelly - on the treatment table. Although he that he is, wants to dampen ex-pectation rather than inflame it. Robert Todd to his midfield, em-"Leicester have no weakness- ploy Ryan Strudwick's all- ceptionally well in moulding a doing anything more active mid-table contest. The Shed

purpose virtuosity in the second row and recall Isaac Fea'unati to a back row also boasting Jake Boer and Rob Gallacher. Welford Road is not the place to attempt victory with a side short of optimum clout.

"Leicester are the final barrier," agreed Best. "If we lose, they go eight points clear of us and it almost becomes a onehorse race.

Not that Dean Richards, whose own England career owed something to Best's guidance during the early years of this decade, was taken in for a moment. "Dick has done ex-

new London Irish team," he than taking foriorn strolls pointed out. "That's a mark of Dick's talents as a coach and Greenwood has played only also says something about the quality of the men he has brought in." Deano named no names, but the words Bachop, Boer, Brendan Venter and Kevin Putt, that inspirational littie scrum-half from New Zealand via Natal would have been close to his lins.

Leicester go in, yet again, without their most gifted threequarter, Will Greenwood, Indeed, there is deep concern in mourning at the news of Will over the chronic groin problems Carling's withdrawal from the that continue to prevent him Harlequins squad for today's

five matches, one of them as a replacement, for his club this term and the Tigers top brass, and by extension the England management, are now fearful that the 26-year-old centre is suffering from the same condition that once sidelined Jeremy Guscott, his putative World Cup partner, for a season.

Down in the West Country at Gloucester, Kingsholm will be

regulars had been preparing a torrent of verbal vitriol, but a minor leg strain keeps England's former captain safely out of range. More to the point, perhaps, Dan Luger has been forced to vacate his left-wing berth with a similar problem.

Wasps, who plunged Bath into another mini-crisis by sticking 35 unanswered points on them last Sunday, give Kenny Logan an immediate recall to the left wing for the match at Bedford. Victory would cement the Londoners' place in the top six, which may well be the cut-off point for any European Cup qualification.

ENGLAND V SCOTLAND NEXT SATURDAY. THERE'S ONLY ONE SIDE TO WATCH.



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But Perby and Chester had to present their cases to the commission by Thursday, ruling out the option of basing any ap peals by claiming new eviden

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Jackson rediscovers his pride Two MAJOR titles have eluded Colin Jackson in his 12-year in. Wales' top hurdler, still the 110 metres world record holder, has recovered his hunger for lettes, particularly group, that you contain the still the st

"One I'm going to pick up in three weeks' time," he says with chuckle. "The other one I'm

ning to pick up in 19 months." Jackson's prediction of success at next month's World Indoor Championships and next year's Olympics would have constituted a clear case of wishful thinking had it been made a couple of years ago. But now, you could picture it happening. At the age of 31 - 32 next Thursday - he has rediscovered the intensity which once established him as

the world's greatest high hurdler While his friend and erstwhile business partner, Linford Christie, is enjoying an openended excursion from the retirement he announced two years ago, Jackson, who runs over 60m hurdles in tomorrow's eration had given him

Bupa Indoor Grand Prix at insufficient leeway to prove his Birmingham, has never physically absented himself from the

competitive arena. In mental terms, however, he has made a major comeback after what he refers to with uncharacteristic sombreness as his "dark years". He spent much of 1995 embroiled in an acrimonious pay row involving the British Athletic

Federation and Nuff Respect, the management group he founded with Christie, Jackson, who claimed he had been lectured "like a schoolboy" by the BAF executive chairman, Peter Radford, vowed never to run in any domestic meetings while Radford was still in his job. He missed the 1995 World Championships, claiming that the Fed-

fitness after a bout of tonsillitis. The following year was

scarcely better, as he finished fourth in the Olympic Games, hampered by a knee injury that was only cured by a cartilage operation in September 1997. "I basically couldn't be both-

ered." he recalled. "It was just after the battle with the Federation, and my body was starting to crack up. I thought: 'Dear God, just tell me, what is the point?' I had no pleasure in performing well. My pride had been shattered." Retirement seemed logical.

But before accepting that, Jackson - who set the current 110m hurdles world record of 12.91sec six years ago - decided to make one last attempt to

prove a point, as much to himself as anyone else. The testing ground was Athens, for the 1997 World Championships

Coming fourth or fifth in major championships was no good for a world record holder," he said. "I thought that if I couldn't actually win a medal at these championships I should consider my future in the sport."

Against all expectation, he won silver behind the American who has dominated the event in the last three years, Allen Johnson. "That was a big thing for me. When Allen saw how I was running in the heats, he apparently said 'Oh dear Colin's back.' "

With pride in his performance restored, Jackson set about cutting his ties with Nuff Respect, which he felt was draining his time, and moving to Bath to restore closer links with the coach who had guided him since junior days, Malcolm Arnold.

"Malcolm makes at least half-a-second's difference to my time," Jackson said. "He notices all the technical problems, and he's always looking for perfection. It forces you to concentrate when you know he's there hounding you."

Last August, Jackson earned the third European title of his career in a time of 13.02sec before deciding to run in a lucrative Japanese meeting the following month rather than seeking a hattrick of Commonwealth victories.

"I didn't need another Commonwealth title in my head," he said, adding that he half expected the ferocious criticism his decision generated in Wales. But he still feels hurt by the

reaction. "People forget a lot," he said. "For instance, Roger Black missed the 1994 Commonwealth Games and ran in Rieti. I thought to myself, Jesus, is it only me they pick on?" Jackson, however, is concerned with what he regards as

the bigger picture - his return to the level he reached in his World Championship year, 1993. Part of his motivation stems from a desire to show the training group he works with, ath-

letes such as Allison Curbishley,

Tatum Nelson and the 21-year-

old fellow hurdler Ross Baillie,

the power of mental application. "I want to show people what Colin Jackson is made of," he

said. "I want to inspire other ath letes, particularly those in my group, that you can have bad ears but you can always come back - if you put your mind to it."

Jackson takes a pride in pass ing on his experience to his younger charges, not least in being ultra-cautious about taking any substances to enhance performance. "I take creatine it's something that works very well for me. But anything I take is checked first by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and I get a certificate back. If you make one mistake

it can have huge consequences. Baillie will join Jackson in Maebashi, Japan, next month as the Welshman seeks the world indoor title he would have had in Toronto in 1993 had it not been for the flying start allowed to Canada's Mark McKoy.

Jackson's anger in Munich

fered enough money by the

organisers, but the women's

world 200 metres silver medal-

The Sri Lankan, who will

take part in the 60m event at the

National Indoor Arena, is at the

centre of an ongoing contro-

versy following an adverse find-

ing in a doping test. Jayasinghe

was suspended by the Sri

Lankan federation last April

after a sample showed up

traces of the banned steroid

nandrolone, but was reinstated

list, Susanthika Jayasinghe.



frustrated by a similarly blatant flyer from Germany's Falk Balser, provided ample evidence of an athlete who cares desperately about his performance - very far from the disillusioned figure of 1996.

As he homes in on next month's target, his intention at morrow is to beat the meeting record of 7.38sec. His own record, presumably? "Yeah." So, final question. Is he in similar form this year to last? He

Waugh revels in role of captain

that he had been confirmed as the next Test captain of Ausit was 8.42 in the morning and he was watching Sesame Street on television. This homely image is not the sort normally associated with

the toughest customer around. "I'm used to seeing it as my daughter, Rosalie, watches it later, enhancing the cosiness. () |)() | It embodied the difference change to the opposition. No between Waugh the professional cricketer and Waugh the good bloke. Playing the game is his job (and mercifulness necessary to win.

If it was the old West, Waugh would be the gun-slinging hombre you would least like to meet on the dusty main street. You might not turn around to embark next week. His vicerun but your mouth would go dry and you would pray there was an afterlife. It is like that for bowlers when he makes is flat-footed, broad-beamed way to the crease, his gaze immovable, his spirit unbreakable. He will bring that sort of approach to his captaincy.

'I guess it's a bit like when I first got picked for the Australian side as a 20-year-old," he said. "I guess I was overwhelmed there, and a bit anxious and frightened of what lay ahead. I'm really excited. I know my cricket is in good shape."

It was natural in the way of these things that when he was paraded officially for the first time as the 40th captain of his country, he was asked when he might be thinking about retiring. His answer might have sent shivers down bowling

"At the moment I get a real z out of going into bat if the am is in a bit of trouble at 30 for 3 against good bowlers and on a wicket that's doing a bit. I and he has been a great bowler. get really excited about that I I always think form is tempolove to go out and fight in that rary and class is permanent. We situation. If I go out there one day and the team really need me and I'm not fired up or ready for the situation it's time to walk away, and that might be next tremendous in his first few Grath) and delegate if he feels

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Melbourne

year, it might be five years or never." It did not sound like it would be tomorrow.

This was Waugh the cricketer talking, and while he is a different character from his every day." he said, a few hours predecessor, Mark Taylor, he change at all, that is. He said he would not have to alter much because Australia had a winning formula, although he did ly his passion) and he brings to think they might have drawn it all the hard-nosed cussed- matches they had lost and

nings run chases. Waugh will lead the side for the first time on their tour of the West Indies, upon which they captain will be Shane Warne, the only other realistic candidate for the leadership, who has done a splendidly adventurous iob in the Carlton & United triangular one-day series this past month while Waugh has been recovering from a ham-

We're looking forward to working together and I think we complement each other pretty well," he said, immediately calming any fears that they would no longer be pals. "He's pretty flamboyant and outgoing and I guess I'm a little bit the other way.'

Waugh also gave the broad-

est indication that the leg-spinning debate on whether Warne should be picked ahead of the new kid on the block, Stuart MacGill, would be pretty brief in his selection meetings. Warne has taken 315 wickets in 68 Tests at 24.97 and MacGill has taken 47 in eight at 21.78. Of Warne he said: "People tend to forget he has taken 315 Test wickets at over five per match

great bowler and he's not going to let you down. "Stuart MacGill has been er Mark, Ian Healy, Glenn Mc-



Steve Waugh, Australia's new captain, faces the press: T'm really excited. I know my cricket is in good shape' PA

and bounds. I think he's going to turn into a great Test bowler You've got to take into consideration who's bowling well and whether somebody has got a nsychological advantage over

the opposition." Waugh has already made plans to deal with any crises over poor form, which dogged Taylor for long periods while he was captain. Sometimes Taylor would cut short his own practice to deal with his other responsibilities. Perhaps, Waugh suggested, his form suffered. should remember that. He's a Waugh intends to have a word with his senior players (broth-

Tests. He's coming on in leaps he needs more practice. "If you're smart you learn from

> conceals it during play, Waugh is an old romantic about the game. Why, you can almost see a tear in that steely eye when he talks about the baggy green cap which he always wears and likes to see the other players wear during the first session of matches.

"Growing up as a young kid I always thought of playing for Australia. That was my dream. I'm still rapt by being the 335th player for Australia. I never dreamed of being captain." And he will not be dreaming in

umpire, was the subject of two those sorts of people." press releases from the Australian Cricket Board vesterday. While his stern demeanour

The first revealed that his hearing on charges of bringing the game into disrepute had taken place. He was found guilty on two charges while another two were dismissed. Hair was charged under the International Cricket Coun-

making certain allegations about the Sri Lankan spin bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan in his book, Decision Maker. He gained notoriety for noballing the off-spinner seven times on Sri Lanka's tour to

Darrell Hair, the Australian he describes the bowler's action as "diabolical".

However, Hair has escaped punishment because the ACB's code of conduct commissioner. Judge Gordon Lewis, could not identify a penalty process in the ICC's code relating to umpires. The ICC's chief executive, David Richards, said yesterday that the judge's views will be referred to the council's solicitors, cil's Code of Conduct after and that the ICC would look at reviewing their regulations in light of the decision.

The second press release merely stated that Hair - yes, the man guilty of two disrepute charges - would be Australia's umpiring representative on the

Jayasinghe seeks third win indoors

A SURPRISE late entry to BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM tomorrow's Bupa Indoor Grand Prix meeting in Birmingham was announced yesterday. Not 800m respectively. Steve Smith, who has chosen to high jump in Germany because he did not feel he had been of-

will take to the track within moments of each other, each seeking to break the other's record. Gebrselassie will be paced by compatriot Milion Wolde, the world junior 5,000m champion who won so impressively over country at Durham this year.

Gebrselassie have set 21 indoor and outdoor world records, so the odds are that one or the other mark will be eclipsed. Komen will be seeking to break the mark established on the same track by the Ethiopian last year.

last autumn after claiming she had been victimised. Her career now depends upon the findings of an International Amateur Athletic Federation arbitration panel which will rule on her case later this year. In the meantime, the Sri Lankan has made the most of her freedom to compete - she break from retirement. arrives in Birmingham seeking a hat-trick of victories over 60

in Stuttgart and Malmö. "We have installed an extra lane to accommodate ber," said Jon Ridgeon, spokesman for event organisers Fast Track, yesterday.

metres having won at meetings

The information that the organisers have put themselves out in this way for Jayasinghe will hardly thrill Smith, who had hoped to make his competitive comeback after a serious neck injury at Birmingham. The 25-year-old Olympic bronze medallist, whose manager, Vicente Modahl, is still embroiled in seeking up to £500,000 worth of damages from the domestic sport on behalf of his wife, Diane, is due to compete in Balingen tomorrow, having planned to make his comeback at Arnstadt last night.

Tomorrow's event in Birmingham involves three billed world record attempts as Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia. Daniel Komen of Kenya and Maria Mutola of Mozambique ca Mateescu of Romania.

compete at 5,000m, 2,000m and

Gebrselassie and Komen

Between them. Komen and

Elsewhere, the AAA 60m champion, Jason Gardener, faces the former world indoor champion Bruny Surin of Canada, fresh from Wednesday's victory in Malmō over Linford Christie, who runs again in Dortmund today as he continues to enjoy an open-ended

Christie's protégé Darren Campbell, the European 100m chamnion will run in Dortmund and Birmingham, as will another member of the training group, Jamie Baulch, who will contest a 400m that was to have included the European 200m champion Dougie Walker, who is currently embroiled in a doping controversy.

Colin Jackson is another entrant to both the German and British event. His 60m burdles time of 7.39sec in Munich last weekend was his fastest in five years, and he is seeking to improve in Birmingham as he pursues his goal of a first world indoor title.

In Smith's absence, 21-year old Commonwealth silver medallist Ben Challenger will attempt to take the battle to Cuba's world high jump record holder Javier Sotomayor. And Ashia Hansen, the world indoor triple jump champion, faces a strong field in Birmingham including Sarka Kasparkova of the Czech Republic and Rodi-

Australia in 1995 and in his book Trinidad next month either. Roses pair put Zimbabwe under pressure

MICHAEL VAUGHAN and Andy Plintoff out England in a commanding position on the fourth day of the second A Test at the Queens Club yesterday.

Lancashire's Flintoff hit a lusty 88 and was an able sidekick to his captain as the Yorkeman who stroked his way to a splendid century.

The pair helped England forge a lead of 470 before Vaughan declared leaving Zimbabwe having to survive a minimum of 145 overs to avoid defeat. At the close of play,

they had reached 112 for 3. The situation at the start of play was ideal for the two overnight batsmen, and Flintoff

By Mark Hargreaves in Bulawayo

England A 383 & 310-6 dec Zimbabwe A 223 & 112-3

providing some rich entertainment as he and Vaughan went

along at more than six runs an over to add 153 runs for the fourth wicket. In one over from Bryan Strang, Flintoff hit a six, carried over the line by long-on, a four which landed on the boundary

board, a straight four and a final six on to the terracing way behind long-on. Vaugran also picked up the

six-hitting habit, reaching his more of the same might follow century with two swept sixes off until he was out on the stroke the leg-spinner Adam Huckle in of lunch, leaving Solanki and the space of three balls.

After Flintoff was well caught by Strang at long-off Vikram Solanki joined Vaughan and, although in distinct contrast to Fliotoff, he kept up the tempo. He played some exotic strokes in doing so, with his powerful wrists sending the ball to some unlikely quarters of the ground.

Vaughan's innings ended on 131 when he was caught at long-on after a stay of five hours. He faced 219 balls, hitting 12 fours and three sixes. Graeme Swann hinted that

Chris Read to bat for 17 minutes after the interval before the

declaration came.

Zimbabwe needed to preserve their wickets, but in the third over Craig Wishart received a delivery from Jason Lewry which popped off his boot and then, as he went through with the intended drive, saw the ball loop to the left of Mal Loye at mid-on. Loye looked like a goalkeeper making a save in the top lefthand corner as he held a two-

handed catch. Trevor Madondo then put up the shutters and made a hardfought 57 before he was caught by Solanki at slip, playing forward to Swann.

Swann then trapped Guy Whittall low, but Steve Gripper was still there at the close with 20 runs chiselled from 61 overs. along with Stuart Carlisle. Vaughan, while happy with

his own form, played tribute to Flintoff's imnings. "He makes me look very feeble when I'm at the other end," he said. "He hits it that far and I'm just trickling it to cover for one."

Fourth day: England A won toss
ENGLAND A - First lealings 383 (M B
Love 133, V S Solanid 55, D L Maddy 64;
A R Winitalii 4-88, B C Strang 4-107).
ZheBAFRIKI A - First lealings 223 (A M
BRignaur 58, D P Villoen 57; G P Swann
4-52).

Harriston.

Bearling: Strang 27-6-99-3; Brignau
5-2-31-0; G1 Whitzell 10-5-25-0; AR Whittall 22-3-82-3; Huckle 13-3-60-0; Viljoer
2,5-0-5-0.
ZIMBABBWE A — Second Innings

Fall: 1-12-72-3-94.
To bett D P Viljoen. IC P Gurr, "A R Whit-lail, B C Strang, A M Bilgnaut, A G Huckle. Bowiling: Lewry 11-6-20-1; Harmison 10-5-23-0; Flintoff 7-3-11-0; Swann 16-5-45-2; Cosker 14-9-9-0; Vaughan

to her potential THE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Rogers lives up

Michelle Rogers came to the Tournoi de Paris, the toughest invitation tournament of the in Paris year, knowing she had to do well if she was to have any chance of selection for this year's champion. European Championships in

Rogers has the talent to do well at international level as she showed here yesterday, winning her first two fights comfortably.

May and the World Cham-

pionships in October

Spain's Beatriz Martin accrued penalties as she failed make an impression on Rogers, matter by holding her down and drawing a submission.

But Rogers was particularly impressive against Heidi Rakels, the experienced Belgian with a string of good medals in a long career when she attacked with style and determination.

This puts the tall Briton into final against Emanuella creditable fifth place at least,

BY PHILIP NICKSAN

Pierantozzi, twice the world Simone Callendar, the

British heavyweight, fought gamely and did well to reach the bronze medal fight. She suffers by a lack of height, and is forced to rely on counters when the taller opponents attack. This tactic brought her two good wins with counter throws, but the cannier German, who eventually settled the Sandra Koppen, did not play the game, and, switching direction, caught Callendar with a rear throw. In the repechage, the Londoner beat Spain's Susan Somolines with two

In the men's division the only Briton to progress past the first round was the middleweight Ryan Birch. His her greatest test yet - a semi- three wins guarantee him a

wohlem for

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FIRST SHOW

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Decoupage has the edge for Egerton

IF WE still called the apparatus on the mantelpiece a wireless, the machine pumping out a beat in the corner a gramophone, you could understand it, but the Tote must by now be getting a little bit cross with the credit going to another firm for one of their sponsorships.

It is a long time, back to 1986 in fact, when a fizzy-drink company last supported Newbury's He will come on for the outing. competitive handicap hurdle at St Valentine's time, yet they still get much of the credit.

Many of those on course today; and almost all the oldtimers, will refer to the feature race, the richest handicap hurdle in Europe, as the Schweppes. While their name endures, so does the contest's reputation as one of the most competitive

races in the calendar. This does not stop some

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Decoupage (Newbury 2.35) NB: Zaggy Lane (Newbury 1.30)

horses going off at silly prices. Indeed, Vicario Di Bray was 4-7 when he was turned over by Grey Salute in 1989. The one to be shot at this year is Tiutchev. who will be expected to run faster than the poet after whom he is named. This is a good horse, perhaps even up to Champion Hurdle standard, but he will start not far from oddson, which is even closer to absurdity. Even if you are convinced he is going to win, this is a price for the feeble minded.

Much can go wrong in what will be rather more turbulent than a gentleman's stroll round Berkshire. Tiutchev's participation means there are some big odds floating around and one which will have a greater chance than his price suggests is the admirable DECOUPAGE (nap 2.35), who represents the is around 20-1 for the latter. Charlie Egerton yard responsible for last weekend's big hand-

NEWBURY

Coing: Good to Soft (Good in places)

Also: 2-1 Kurakka (felt). J ran, 8 (N Henderson, Lambourn). Tote: wn \$2.30 DF \$2.40 CSF; \$412

2.20 (zm troyds novice handicap hurdle) 1. PICKET PIECE ______ A Johnson 5-2 2. Cartys Quest ____ N Williamson 7-4 fav 3. Oarlen ______ X Alzpuru 16-1

Also: 5-1 Nashkapour (5th) 15-2 Polar Champ C-1 Alhosaam (6th), 16-1 Barton Scanes (4th), 7 ran. 1 - 12 - 10, 3 (D Nacholson, Tem-

2.50 (2m C' handcap hurdic)
1. LADY CRICKET _____A P McCoy 4-1
2. Scoring Pedigree ____A Bates 11-2

9 ran. 9 . 6 M is (M Ppc. Willington) 76te ein 6570 places 9200, \$190 \$210 75 £25£0 CSF £2403

Also. 6-1 Mause Bard (4th), 9-1 Bar-haccera Bov 19-1 Kings Cherry (5th) 16-1 Scor 3 Feilige (6th), 50-1 Jazzy Reham 7 (4th, 19-14-15), E. James Hungerford) 19te, win 25-70 pinces 0160, 0140, 0200 15, 05-10 CSF \$1159 Tricast; 02850

Also: 4 1 pts. Good Lord Merchy (Sth), 9-2 Good Amil (4th), 10-1 Bonkhead (6th), 10-1 en Soct 10-1 Alarka, 05-1 Lettery Ticket

9 ran Steha 2 2 2 cast (0 Natholsen, Temple Cusing) Tato: van \$420; places 2150 Etsa \$200 DF \$1160 OSF: \$3598

reast £15052 Infecto £7800 Non Run-

THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES

|0891 261 **+**

LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS

| 100Ch | 172 | 183 | 185Ch | 173 | 183 | 185Ch | 174 | 183 | 185Ch | 175 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 185 | 18

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91

Place 6, 21972 Place 5: \$1472

The Game Spirit Chase is headed by Ask Torn, who won this event 12 months ago but then suffered training interruptions on the way to the Queen Mother Champion Chase (Festival punters however were just afforded the first part of that information).

One of his rivals is Nipper Reed, who owes his name to the bobby who vainly tried to repatriate Ronnie Biggs from Copacobana beach. The nine-year -old's owner, Graham Piper, is a former law enforcer too, and he could do with the winning percentage to pay his legal team. He was recently arrested as part of a drugs operation by the National Crime Squad. Place money might have to do, as this looks an opportunity for Or Royal (2.00) to break a losing sequence. The grey's trainer, Martin Pipe, sends out Golden Alpha (4.35) in the

strong that he must win. The West Country support in the opening race will be for Earthmover, last term's Fox-Festival who is among the considerations for the Gold Cup next month. He fell at Newton Abbot on his reappearance and took home with him on his side a haematoma. a blood blister, the size of a pumpkin. The horse has consequently not been given a hard time on the gallops and a better prospect, receiving chunks of weight, is Zaggy

concluding bumper and the

word from Wellington is so

Lane (next best 1.30). Another horse to analyse is Barry Hills's The Fly, fifth in the Derby and third in the St Leger of 1997, and now about to embark on a jumping career. He is entered in the Champion Hurdle and Supreme Novices', and

At Haydock, Rough Quest, the 1996 Grand National winner. icap hurdle winner. Teaatral. has his first foray into hunter

BANGOR

Going: Hurdles Good; Chases Good to Soft

2.00: 1. GUILDER (J A McCarthy) 6-1; 2.

Strong Spray 16-1; 3. General Claremont. 8-1, 15 rim. evens tay Leaburn (unseated rider). 13, 11/2 (P. Webber, Banbury). Tota: 5720; 5140, 5350, 5280, DF: 53760, CSF: 57849, NR: Coble Lane.

2.30: 1. RIVER WYE (V Statery) 4-1: 2. Ori-ental Boy 3-1 fav; 3. La Brigantino 8-1, 11 ran. 2/s. 14. (G Yardey, Malvern). Tote: £380; £140, £240, £190, DF: £840, CSF: £1457. Tir-

Cast: E8023. 3.00: 1. JANGLYNYYE (L Wyer) 12-1; 2. Kind's Cross 9-2; 3. Tanseeq to 1: 10 rsn. 11-8 fav Potter Agan (Sth). /z. 4. (Mrs. M. Jones, Lambourn). Totes £1080; £200, £30, £300. DF: £2660. CSF: £538. Tricast

3.30: 1. FULL OF OATS (R Widger) 10-1; 2.

Pink Gin 16-1; 3. Mr Magnetic 12-1; 4. True Fortune 7-1, 16 ran. 4-1 for Knight's Crest. is. 1 (P Hobbs, Minehead), Tote: £12-10; £2-70. £2-20; £3-00, £150, 0F; £105-90, CSF; £14405.

4.00: 1. ROKER JOKER (Chm: Webb) 11-2: 2. The Negotistor 30-1; 3. Artic Ground 9-1. 4. Flahtve's First 20-1, 17 ran. 5-1 (av

Emgal 9.8 (R Peacock, Tethury), Total 9860; 9210, 9520, 9260, 9770, DF: 97420, CSF:

£10606 Tricast £91709 NR. Lucky Maste

4,30: 1, DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL (Mr A

Dempseyi 5-4 fav. 2. Mr Golightity 14-1, 3. Kibroet 11-4, 13 ran. 4, 21. (Mass H Knight, Wantarge) Tote: £2.20; £180, £260, £120 DF. £23.20 CSF: £1942 NR: Quateris Curate.

SOUTHWELL Gorng: Standard 1.10: 1, EUROLINK MOUSSAKA (C

hewa 11 4 fb. 15 ran, 6. t. (J.L. Eyre). Tota: £2580; £880. £230. £140 DF. £5360 CSF: £6142. Tocast: £19687.

1,40: 1, EURO VENTURE (P Doe) 6-4 lar; 2. Thasyer 4-1, 3. Ramsey Hope 25-1, 10 ran. Nk, 1: (D Nicholist Tote: \$220; \$120, \$230, \$240, DF: \$650, \$557, \$643, \$160ast

2.10: 1, ANONYM (J Qurn) 5-1: 2, High

Noon 4-1 fav. 2. Golden Lyric 5-1-15 ran. Nr. 1% (GM Moore) Tota: 25-0, 22-7; 22-7; 2190 DF. 21740 CSF: 20x72 Treast; 20583

2.40; 1. MOONRAKING (J Savage) 5-2; 2. Abulijood 6-4 izv: 3. Time Out 3-1, 5 ran.

3"... 3 (Miss & Witton). Tote: \$5.40; \$2.00. \$100 DF, \$340 CSF; \$5.80, NP, Alsahit.

3.10: 1. NIFTY NORMAN (F Norton) 14-1. 2. Bold Aristocrat 9-4 fax: 3. Goof Prospect 7-2. 7 ran. 1%, %. (D Nicholls). Tote: £1190;

7-8 Yan, 17-7, 10 Normal, 1016: 1130; 480, 5140 DF, 51230 CSF; 2003. Treast CR6-5 NRs. Etron Ledger. Sharp Pearl Etron Ledger (9-2) was withdrawn not under or-ders. Auc 4 applies to all bets. deduction 15p in the pound.

3.40: 1. KENTUCKY BULLET (J. Farrang)

16-1, 2. Heathyarda Jaka 9-4 fav 12 ran. 2.2% (M.Johnston), Tote: \$1440; \$260, \$200

4.10: 1. ABTAAL (P McCabe) 9-2: 2. Shamokin 66-1: 3. Stravsea 11-2 10 ran. 11-4 fav Scathebury (4th), 1/1, sht-hd. (Mrs N Macauley) Toto: £550: £130. £1490. £200

DF £23480 CSF; £24126 NR; Siction Park

4.45: 1. HE'S GOT WINGS (G Carter) 20-1:

4. Quezon City 5-2 lav 16 ran. 3. hd (M Pek) Tota: C38.20; E4.70 E1.40, £182, £180

DF: 08900 CSF: 08461 Treast: 085549

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £29,51855 car-

cast: 08023.

2515.96

RESULTS

chase company. The best bet here is Mariborough (3.15), Who has rather more of his career in front of him, including the Royal & Sun Alliance Chase

in five weeks' time. The fences at Prestbury Park may also be the challenge for River Wye and Makounji. who won yesterday at Bangor and Newbury respectively to keep alive hopes of an assault on the Arkle Trophy.

Quel Senor, the French Group Three winner, may also be on parade at Prestbury Park though his winning effort at Newbury yesterday was hardly the stuff of legend. François Doumen's horse would not have collected at all had Scarlet Pimpernel not unseated at the last or Tom Paddington broken down. Hold those bets.



AYR

1.50 Sillymore 2.20 LEGAL RIGHT (nap) 2.50 Saintes 3.25 Swanbister 3.55 Who Dares Wins 4.25 Rachael's Owen 4.55 Straffan Gold

Course is E of lown on A738, Ayr station (service from Gas-gow) Irr. ADMISSION: Club £14; Grandstand £7 (OAPs £4). CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 26-142 (183%), L Lumgo 23-168 (197%), J J O'Nelli 19-118 (181%), P Monteith 19-105 (193%). 25-159 (15.7%), P Niven 19-119 (16%), R Supple 17-88 (19.3%) ■ FAYOURITES: 158-105 (39%). ■ LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Burundi (150) & The Rob

(250) have been sent 300 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cregg Rose (220) 1.50 MARTNAHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

116 BURUNDI (14) (D) A Carcal 5 to 10. 05-PF5 LINROYALE KING (12) L Lungo 8 10 12... D- NORTH MOSS (427) M Barries 6 10 12... STOLED SAN FRANCISCO (92) A WINDOW 5 to 12

FORM VERDICT

There probably isn't a lot between BURUNDI and Cucht produce plenty under pressure, whereas there's no knowing how much the free-going Cuchulainn would have produced

2.20 CARRICK HILLS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2m 5f 110yds 1U1U2F COURSE DOCTOR (14) (CD) (BF) G M Moore 7 ft 10

OPS/P- LOTHIAN COMMODORE (483) N Richards 9 to 12 R Supple 6 OFSIP- LOTHAN COMMODORE (463) N Richards 9 10 2... Supple 7 68PSF6 CUDALL CROSSETT (30) E Came 14 10 2... Gary Lyons 8 PLP3 SMITHS WIND (11) R Shiels 7 10 2... B Storey 9 P2PS2P THORNTOLM HOUSE (15) J Golde 6 10 2... D Partier 10 52F64 TURKISH TOWER (17) R NIGOR 8 10 2... C NicCompack (5) 4 405-33 DISTRICT (75) A Whiters 6 10 8... J. Jardine (7) 2 P030P6 CREGG ROSE (7) E Came 9 10 7... C Rather (7) B 13-0PU SHONARA'S WAY (12) P Monetia 8 10 7 ... S Taylor

BETTRIC: 8-4 Lagat Right, 7-2 Course Doctor, 4-1 Mr Frangipani, 11-2 1 m A Bargain, 12-1 Thomsoun House, 18-1 Lothen Commodore, Turtien Tomer, Distinct, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT COURSE DOCTOR taxes the patience with his occasional costly aberration but he is essentially a good jumper and he goes well in lessing ground here. He is slightly preferred to Legal Right, who is not easy to keep right but showed his potential as a nonce chaser when wining at Ludow last time.

Wir Frangipeni may improve on the form of his win last time but needs to.

2.50 STRACHAN KERR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m 4f

5.00: 1. ELEGANT CITY (Mr.) Crowley) 12-1 2. Softway Breeze 20.1; 3, Guishen 7-1 16 ran. ..., 2:... (N Richards, Greystoke) Tote: £980, £150, £630, £320, DF: £6140, CSF: £24056, NRs: Crucara, Sara Bella Placepot: £57400 Quadpot: £4190 Place 6: £22258. Place 5: £6494

FORM VERDICT THANKS KEITH is a thorough stayer and may be able to re-verse earlier form with Saintee over this ting. That rival ran well against some hightly-regarded individuals at Doncaster last time but he tack a leven hold that day and may not last

out this extra distance as well as the selection.

STRAFFAN GOLD can dely his weight nee for a namow de-test at Wetherby on Boung Day even though it is all too easy to pick holes in that form. Chummy's Sagar has been limit-ed over hundles so far but goes on the ground and has won from a higher mark over lenges. He is respected, along with well-hundicapped course-and-distance wirner Latin Leader

FORM VERDICT

ACID TEST, though 2b higher since his latest run, is fancied to come out on jop. He should be helped by having front-runners such as Suite Factors and Tancred Times in opposition, and is taken to pick them off in the closing stages.

1.55 YOUNG LOVE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV I) 52,500 added 1m

004-41 HARPOON LOUBE (18) (CD) A Vanderhangten (Bell 9.95....

- 10 opcared -BETTING: 3-1 Harpoon Louis, 9-2 Van Gurp, 11-2 Nor's Deed, Dark Mennoe, 13-2 Sessedo, 10-1 Hawell Storm, Feitly Sure, Surpress Cera, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

HARPOON LOUIE won a lair claimer here lest time and gets a confident vote in this moderate seller. Van Gurp can chase

Section 2-39 and Sectio

3.25 RIVER GIRVAN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) \$10,000 added 3m 1f

FORM VERDICT
ISLAND CHIEF has few miles on the clock and is still ca-

pable of making up into a smart handicap chases, judging by his comeback success at Wetherby lest month. He mer-its the vote over Swanbister, who loves soft ground

3.55 LOVE IS IN THE AYR "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (E) \$3,500 2m 6f

FORM VERDICT

against a subsequent winner have last time, is expected to confirm superiority over Political Millistiar and has a good chance to goen he account. An interesting contender is Par-lance Bay, who could be seen in a better light over this trip.

4.25 CARRICK ARCHITECTS HANDICAP CHASE (E) £5,000 added 2m 4f

FORM VERDICT

RACHAEL'S OWEN is well handcapped with Jymjam Johnny on one run here last season and should be all the better
for his reappearance run when he looked in need of the race

4.55 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (F) 53,500 2m 4f

and had a tough task at the weights.

CATTERICK

Bay 3.20 Sharp Command 3.50 House Of Dreams 4,20 Andy Burnett 4,50 Sahara Reem (NSPECTION: 7.30am

ved area £2, remainder free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

EVE-YEAR STATESTICS

LEADING TRANSPIS: Mas M Reveloy 28-22 (23%), M Hammond

5-35 (11%), Mrs S Smith 14-199 (25%), G M Moore 13-76 (167%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Hiven 27-97 (27%), R Gentity 17-83 (205%), A S Smith 13-97 (124%), B Storey 13-760 (81%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: P 18-80 (81%), B Storey 13-760 (81%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: P 18-80 (81%), B Storey 13-760 (81%),

BLINKERED PRIST TIME: Schillechi (145); Aziec Fiyer (245);

1.45 ALPHAMERIC RED ONION SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m

BETTENG: 52 Be Brave, 4-1 Out

FORM VERDICT

The latter holds her form well on the Hat but she doesn't seem to have quite the same entitusiesm for hurdes and despite having an obvious chance at the weights, is opposed with Be Brave, who is in peak form just now.

2.15 ALPHAMERIC SOLUTIONS TO BOOKIES NOVICE CHASE (D) £6,000 added 2m

2.45 IAN HUTCHINSON AMATEUR NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (E) \$3,000 3m 1f 110yds

1.45 Be Brave 2.15 Barnburgh Boy 2.45 Teal

GOING: Good, Good to Firm in Places.

Left-hand course, unclusting and sharp. Not suitable for the long-stricing horse. Run-in 240yda.

ME Course is NW of town on A6136. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Club Et2; Tattersalis E8; Course E250 (under 186 free into all enclosures). CAR PARK:

65842 BE BRAVE (8) (CO) T Etherrigion 9 ti 3 ... L Caramins (3) B BEHART J Turner 5 ti 3 ... T Reed 54PF C APTÁBH TAMOY (449) (D) C Smith 10 ti 3 ... M. Ranger F4040 DURANO (8) (D) T Essierby 8 ti 3 ... G Bradley B 55PL IMPERIAL FOUNTAIN (26) G M Moore 6 ti 3 ... T Houge 70 0000PD ARTIVALANIN (9) (D) B Bissor 7 ti 3 ... E Husbard (0) MOLLINSBURN (44) Mts M Paveley 8 ti 3 Mr T Cornerford (7) 44PC2 CNERSMAN (25) (D) J FizzSerati 6 ti 3 ... P Ryse (7) B 4PC20 CNERSMAN (25) (D) J FizzSerati 6 ti 3 ... P Ryse (7) B 7000 CNERSMAN (25) (D) J H Johnson 7 ti 3 ... Mit J Crossley (5) POD SCHILACCH (11) R Bassiman 11 ti 3 ... H Bassiman (5) B OY SUN MARK (F311) Mess J Craze 8 ti 3 ... D Steptie 0-6035 PRO VERTIALE (63) C Thumbon 6 ti 0 2 ... D Bealley

4 Octobras, 92 Durans, 54 Sum do, 12-1 Molinston

-221 BARNSURGH BOY (11) (CD) T Eastery 5 11 7 ... G Bradley
21-JP ECHO'S OF DAWN (28) J Upson 7 it 2 J Supple
166-34 FASSAN (58) (CD) M Harmond 7 it 2 B Harding
22-005 FRYUP SATELLITE (28) (C) Mr.J Brown 8 it 2 R Uniform 656023 JOE SHAW (8) Mrs M Reveley 6 it 2 R Wilderhoon 65
14225 KEY GRIP (77) (CD) Mrs S Smith 8 it 2 R Wilderhoon 65
14354 MUNICIPEN (48) (D) J Fooderald 11 it 2 R Wilderhoon 65
14355 MUNICIPEN PLASH (88) J Haynes 5 it 7 A S Smith
14356 MUNICIPEN PLASH (88) J Haynes 5 it 7 R wilderhood 65

-8 declared -BETTING: 10-11 Bernburgh Boy, 7-2 Joe Staw, 6-1 Key Grip, 8-1 Resear, 10-1 Nigneger, 14-1 Fryup Salellite, 25-1 Echo's Of Dewn, 88-1 Morth-orn Flesh

FORM VERDICT FOHM VENUE:

BARNBURGH BOY has the class to win this, if the ground rides on the tast side it would be a eight concern, but he does handle good going. There is not much between Joe Shaw, Fassan and Fryup Satelitie, but they are just preferred to chasing newcomers Key Grip and Nijmegen for each-way

A typically trappy novices handicap hundle, TilkOPIA is turly weighted on his placed form against some quite decemt
company and though his stable's long lean spell and his twomonth absence are womes, he may still be the answer in this
curtainary after Teal Bay stands out among several likely-locking dangers.

FORM VERDICT

This trip could prove on the sharp side for Joseph's Wine

3.20 RED ONION GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE (C) £10,000 3m 6f

O'DISI SHARP COMMAND (6) (C) P Estès 6 11 10 ... G Bradiey
23/F3P CRABAPPLE HILL (8) 8 Elect 7 71 3 ... E Husband V
23/F3P CRABILLON (F7) (21) AJ LOCKWOOD 9 10 7 88 J Crowley (5)
5-3/F01 GALEN (37) (C) Mrs M Reveix 8 10 0 ... Mr A Dempasy (5) 8
20-141 THE SNOW BURN (49) T Tate 6 10 0 ... 8 Harding 8
U-3452 MISTER MUDDDYPAWS (49) J H JOINSON 9 10 0 ... A S Smith - 8 declared -

ldypares, 15-2 Cadrillon, 16-1 Crabappie Hill FORM VERDICT

form and with two wins from two tries here, even if his unjust as likely to throw in a poor run as win. The Snow Burn

3.50 ALPHAMERIC BET CAPTURE SYSTEMS HANDICAP HURDLE (C) \$7,000 2m

6231-0 HOUSE OF DREAMS (14) (CD) G M Moore 7 ft 10 JN Hannity (7) POSS CLASSIC EAGLE (49) (CD) Mrs D Harre 6 il 8. G Bradley
P2163 MARHELIANO (USA) (16) (CD) K Morgan 6 to 8. A S Smith
12323 EASTERN PROJECT (58) (D) M Hammond 5 to 7. 8 Harding
2123 FREE (73) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 4 10.7 ... Mr A Dempaty (3) -10923 MONES (21) (CD) B Elison 8 10 (). Mar J Crowley (5

SETTING: 3-1 Free, 100-30 Marigliano, 4-1 Classic Eagle, 9-2 House O eams, 8-1 Eastern Project, 12-1 Monis.

FORM VERDICT

An open affair. Manigliano repeatedly promess more than he delivers but, though his latest form (in a muddling race) is standing up well, he is passed over in favour of HOUSE OF DREAMS, who has a useful strike-rate and may yet do

4.20 ALPHAMERIC RED ONION HUNTER CHASE (H) 25,000 added 3m 4f 110yds F1%-1 ANDY BURNETT (6) Mass 9 Forster 10 12 7... Mr R Morgan (7) 3211-3 SECRET BAY (P14) (BF) C Derns 10 12 4 . . . Mr S Saviers 1234 GREENMOUNT LAD (P272) Mrs S Comboth 11 12 0

6/304- SERGEANT MULLARKEY (370) John Cart 11 12 D

5 Score Service Williams (7) - Mrs L Gottsworthy 6 12 0 Jibr M Levis (7) 7 039UU TICO GOLD (PS) (C) Mrs J Nevelt 11 20 Jibr G Markham (7) 8 mto4/ TRADE DISPUTE (PS) (C) Mrs J Nevelt 11 20 Jibr G Markham (7) 8 mto4/ TRADE DISPUTE (PS) (C) (BF) C Bard 10 12 0 Jibr J Crowley (5) 9 POO-2R VERY EVIDENT (PS) (C) (BF) C Bard 10 12 0 Jibr J Crowley (5) - 8 declared - 8ETTING: 5-2 Secret Bay, 11-4 Andy Burnatt, 4-1 Mr Goodbye, 6-1 linds

Dispute, 10-1 Greenmount Lad, Very Evident, 25-1 Sergeant Mullerkey, Sip Of Brandy, Tico Gold FORM VERDICT

Quite an interesting hunters' chase, in which TRADE DISPLITE.

Secret Bay and Andy Burnett are the three to concentrate On. At his best, Secret Bay would set a decent standard for seasonal debut (albeit on too soft a surface) and yet may well start at shortish odds. As such, one-time useful hurder and chasing debutant Trade Dispute can reasonably be tipped against him, having run well enough in staying Flat handicaps in 1998. A good amateur is booked too.

4.50 ALPHAMERIC DISPLAY SYSTEMS NOVICE HURDLE (E) \$3,000 fillies & mares 2m

BETTING: 11-4 Ayro Avian, 3-1 My Desperado, 7-2 Sahara Roem, 8-1 Damaria, Tungshan, 10-1 Topical Times, 12-1 The Grey Bay, 50-1 others FORM VERDICT

Not a great deal to go on in an ordinary race. Avro Avian is a tair long-term prospect on breeding, but she may find the concession of 7th to MY DESPERADO beyond her

and he is passed over in taxour of COMEQUITOFTHEFOG. who looked set for a return to winning ways when an en-

3.05 CUPID CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 7f 210-34 MELODY OUBER (7) (0) K Burke 92 N Callan (5) 2

- 4 déclared -BETTING: 6-4 Melody Queen, 2-1 Brimale, 7-2 Glastonbury, 5-1 Irish Cream FORM VERDICT

MELODY QUEEN is rated 7th superior to Entrysie in current handicaps and, reverting to what is probably her best trip, is

3.40 JACK & GILL COLE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,250 added 3YO 1m 2f

0-12 SCRAGGYS DREAM (4) (CD) P Methol 8 11R Cochrane 2 0-51 THREE BAY TREES (21) (C) M Johnston 85. ___ J Familing 4

- 6 declared -Marimum weight: 7st 10to. True hendicap weight: Mass Take 7st Sto. BETTING: 5-2 Three Bay Trees, 11-4 Reywate Boy, Scraggys Oreen, 11-2 Dounted, 9-1 Miss Take, 10-1 Sweppy FORM VERDICT

RAYWARE BOY has been staying on strongly at the end of his races at Southwell this year and should prove well-suited

Andrew Commence (1980) and the company of the commence of the

4.10 DEMPSTERS DIARY MAIDEN STAKES CLASS D) £5,250 added 5f

043-53 JONATHAN'S GERL (14) J Sndger 4 9 5...... R Bristagel (7) \$ 600070 SHARP HOLLY (10) M Bradslock 795. . . T Smith (5) 5 PIPER'S CLAN N Calacter 3 8 °13 J P Spancer (3) 4
86. ANOTHER LOVER (173) 5 Knight 3 8 5..... R Havin 6 21503- COLLEGE BLUE (48) T Mile 385 L Carter 1 V - 6 decisred -

BETTRIG: 2-5 College Blue, 7-5 Streep Hins, 8-1 Jonestum's Girl, 12-1 Piper's Clan, 20-1 Another Lover, 25-1 Sharp Holly FORM VERDICT

This looks a perfect opportunity for COLLEGE BLUE to get off the mark. Her juvenile form cannot be matched by any of her rivals and, unless Piper's Clan is a bit sharp, then she should gain an overdue first success.

4.40 SWEETHEART HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added fillies & mares 1m 4f

224-61 ISABELLA GONZAGA (21) (CD) R Cowel 5 T 0.... J Wesser 3

4 003-12 SLEAVE SILK (27) (CD) (BF) W Musson 4.81 ... J Quinn 1 - 5 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True hardicap weight: Nika 7st 8th BETTING: 7-4 Steams Silk, 15-8 Isabelta Genzage, 11-4 Night Auction, 6-1 Shanghai LIL, 10-1 Kilga

FORM VERDICT

ISABELLA GONZAGA came out best in a tactical race with Sieave Silk and Night Auction here last month and while connections of the beaten pair will tarrey their chances of reversing the placings this time, they may well be disappointed.

LINGFIELD

1.25 Acid Test 1.55 Ivor's Deed 2.30 Castle Ashby Jack 3.05 Glastonbury 3.40 Scraggys Dream 4.10 College Blue 4.40 Sleave Silk GOING: Standard STALLS: SI & Im outside, remainder inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to Int. especially for 61 If Equipmed, surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course. If Course is SE of form on 50208. Lingfield station (served by London, Victorial adjoins course, ADMISSION: One enclosure \$10.

London, Victorial adjoins course, ADMISSION: One enclosure £10 CAR PARK: Club 53; remainder free.

FIVE-VEAR STATISTICS

ILLEADING TRAINERS; G L Moore 69-685 (134°s), M. Johnston 49-278 (175°s), B. Hammon 49-378 (137s), G. Kolleway 44-389 (1387s), ILLEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 77-610 (126°s), J. Weaver 68-307 (121°s), S. Sandors 65-633 (115°s), S. Whitworth 55-383 (14°s), ILLEADING FIRST TIME; Note

1.25 ST VALENTINES APPRENTICE H'CAP (CLASS F) £2,750 added 71

2.30 YOUNG LOVE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV II) \$2,500 added 1m

BETTING: 5-2 Jacoph's Wine, 100-30 Compouteffindog, 7-2 Walking Buach, 6-1 Castle Ashby Jack, 8-1 Mr Rough, 10-1 Private Seal, 12-1 others

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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Tiutchev a weighty problem for rivals

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Tote Gold Trophy



Rainbow Frontier: Faces a Benatom: A solitary victory tough task under top weight in a maiden hurdle on fast Dreams End: No chance on ground is no recommenda-

form shown this season. Shankar: Well beaten in two

outings this term. Upgrade: Soundly beaten in three runs this season and needs to improve.

Sharpical: Makes his seasonal debut but his trainer, Nicky Henderson, can be relied upon to have him spot on. City Hall: An eye-catching grey who has disappointed this season. Probably needs better ground.

Rainwatch: Improved to win at Cheltenham in first-time blinkers but seems to lack a turn of foot.

Wakeel: Has shown best form on a sound surface. Effectual: This fellow steps

fine victories but is likely to be found wanting. Polar Prospect: Consistent sort but may be going off the boil after nine runs already

up in class after posting two

this season. Decoupage: Yet to win in this campaign and will do well to finish in the minor placings.

Sadler's Realm: One-paced, and this trip should prove too Vent D'Aout: Won at Taunion last time under top weight but

Tiutchev: Handily weighted,

loves the softer ground and in fine form - he is the one they

Amitge: Cannot possibly

make the frame on recent

all have to beat.

form.

looks out of her league. Mister Rm: Soundly beaten by Tiutchev at Kempton last time and unlikely to reverse the form at the weights.

Siren Song: I would be surprised to see him finish in the first six.

Conclusion: Even though these handicap hurdles are always tough to predict, I expect TIUTCHEV to land a prize for which he has been laid out. The ground, the trip and the weights are in his favour, and he should get the better of Nicky Henderson's seasonal debutant Sharpical.

NEWBURY

1.30: Earthmover might end up at too short a price and he faces some decent rivals, including SAIL BY THE STARS who has shaped well in two top-class handicaps.

2.00: If Ask Tom lacks anything for fitness, it will be exposed by CELIBATE who was a good third in the Victor Chandler last time out.

2.35: Tiutchev is the obvious choice, but SHARPICAL also held Champion Hurdle aspirations after his impressive win in this race 12 months ago; he looks ideally suited by this track and by coming from behind off a

strong pace. HAYDOCK

3.15: Marlborough contin- the main danger ues on the upgrade and has only a 6lb penalty. But chasing newcomer MCHATTIE is built for the game and has already shown decent form over hurdles. He is likely to make this a test from the front and Marlborough could just be vulnerable now that he's dropped in distance.

3.45: STEP ON EYRE is the 1996 National winner a race.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

most promising horse in Henry Daly's stable. Very impressive at Wetherby, he faces a sterner test today conceding 20lb to Grizzly Bear, another on the upgrade after two clear-cut wins. It's bound to be tight. but Step On Eyre in the Arkle colours can prevail

4.15: KINGS MEASURE is turned out quickly after last Saturday's flop - a sure sign of his well-being. He won over the course and distance last season and goes well for today's partner Lorcan Wyer. Topweight L'Opera is rated

4.45: TINOTOPS is the value bet against the likely ring-rusty Rough Quest. He beat the useful Rightsaidfred last season and will be raring to go after his success at Larkhill a fortnight ago. Last Option, who turned over Double Thriller in May, can also be fancied to give the

Dashing Gold doubt

SIMPLY DASHING has met with a setback and may miss the Cheltenham Gold Cup. "He slipped on some ice," Peter the Irish banker of the Chel-Easterby father of the trainer, tenham Festival next month, Tim, said yesterday. "He didn't might be switched to the Gold come down but he pulled a Cup. Coral quote Nick Dundee, muscle in his quarters. He who is trained by Eddie must be just 50-50 to get to Chel- O'Grady and owned by Sue tenham. He's none the worse so and John Magnier, at 10-1 with he'll have an easy week."

Nick Dundee, the Royal & SunAlliance (Novices') Chase favourite, regarded as many as a run, or 25-1 all in run or not.

10-YR-TALE	. 0	2	ŢΟ) I E		OF	ע	1 1	O I	11 1
				92		94	95	98	97	_98_
Fate of the favourites:	2			2/0	0	3_	_1	6/0	6	_0_
Winner's place in betting		3	A	0	0	2	1	0	2	0_
Starting-prices:	<u>8-1</u> 8-1	7-1	A	15-2	10-1	9-3	9-4	13-2	B-1	10-1
Winners' weights:	11.5	TL3	A	1010	100	10.8	108	1012	11.7	71.1
Winners' spes	6	5	A	В	8	6_	5	7	6	6
Profit or loss to £1 stak	e: Fav	ourit	3- 26	5.75	Seco	nd Fa	vouri	es + 5	23.50	
Percentage of winners	placed	1st,	2nd	or 3rd	in îz	at rec	e: 67°	<u> </u>		
Shortest-priced winner:	Mysh	(199	<u>5) 9-4</u>					A = E	aband	oned

1 to annual March (1995) 9-4	A = abandoned
Shortest-priced winner: Mysliv (1995) 9-4	10-1
ongeet-priced winner: King Credo (1993) & Sharpical (1998)	
Too trainer: No trainer has won this race more than once up	ue bezr in koera
Top lockey: J Osborne - Large Action (1994), Mysiv (1995)	

FIRST SHOW

NE	WB	URY	1.	30	
	C	н	L	S	
Checker .	74	58	2-1	7-4	2-1
מוצל אָנַן	41	41	4-1	41	31
I By The Sta	m 51	51	6-1	51	6-1
nboo Gold	13-2	61	75	11-2	61
ler ide	61	6-1		61	7-1
RADer	81	71	61	9-1	<u>6-1</u>
oper Baby	- F1	151	26-1	20-1	16-1
	90.1		431	o):	31

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NE'	WBU	JRY	2.	DÕ	
\	c	H	L	S	<u></u> Ţ
Ant Ton	15-8	7.4	6-3	7-4	15-8
Mulicen	114	13	7-2	20	03
Cathon	5-1	4	9.	65	-72
Or Royal	132	r.	97	11-2	61
Healty An Cyn	32	61	g-t	17-2	7-7
Breen Basel	7-3	101	13-1	10-1	91
	 	ne o	# 2	ng 1.3	
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factors a different paces

Come Hinder Hil E Latholics, 5 States; T little

Tuectors	64	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8
Десоциаде	5-1	11-2	6-1	6-1	6-1
Polar Prospect	84	74	7-1	152	8-1
Starpical	10-1	10-1	9-1	<u>8-1</u>	10-1
Rainwalch	10-1	10-1	9-1	<u>8-1</u>	12-1
Etlecistal	20-1	8 -1	81	16- 1	20-1
Vent D'Andt	20-1	18-1	20-1	51	16 ·1
Banasions	30-1	81	61	25-1	20-1
City Half	25-1	20-1	25-1	3 -1	20-1
Mister Ren	251	25-1	<u>డ్</u>	25-1	25-1
Sader's Realm	25-1	28-1	51	25-1	201
Rainbow From	25-1	29-1	28-1	25-1	33-1
Upgrade	251	53-1	28-1	33-1	33-1
Ambut	33-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Stanist*	25-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	33-1
Siren Song	28-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	45 -1
Water	40-1	40-1	50-1	50-1	40-1
Drawers End				100-1	
Each-WEI, & C	PART I	te odd	s, place	s 1, 2, 3	4
C Gazal H William	m HBL L	Į metros	ios, S.	Sariny,	T Tab

NEWBURY 2.35

C H T 2

NEWBURY

HYPERION 1.30 Sall By The Stars 3.35 Perfect Venue 2.00 Celibate 4.05 Copper Boy 4.35 Sandy Duff

2.35 Sharpical 3.05 Monsoon Man

GOING: Hurdle course: Good to Soft (Good in places); Chase: Good to Soft.

GORNG: Nurse course: Good to Soft (Good in places); Chase: Good to Soft.

I Left-Hand coursewith stiff tencas.

Course is SE of town near A3A, Reilway station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members E17; Tattersalls £10; Saver Ring 54 (CAPs half price). Accomparised 17-year-olds or under free gill enclosures. CAR PARK: Southmead £2; Picric area £4; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

II LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 20-100 (20%), M Pipe 16-76 (211%), O Sherwood 5-53 (283%), N Handerson 15-97 (5.5%), N Tedston-Davies 15-102 (147%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Calchertyn 25-108 (14.2%), N Williamson 13-79 (16.5%), M A Fitzgerald 18-157 (117%), C Liewethyn 15-108 (14.2%), N Williamson 13-79 (16.5%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Calchertyn 15-108 (14.2%), N Williamson 13-79 (16.5%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Calchertyn 15-108 (14.2%), N Williamson 13-79 (16.5%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Calchertyn 15-108 (14.2%), N Williamson 13-79 (16.5%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J

1			.30	MITSUBISH! COLT HANDICAP CHASE (B) £15,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £10,284	BBC
		1		EARTHMOVER (101) (C) (D) (BF) (R M Parmy) P Nicholis 8 12 0	<u>ا</u> الح
		2	1-2744	CALL IT A DAY (85) (CD) (8F) (Ms J Lane) D Nicrolson 9 11 11	A Naga
1		3	11-405	SAIL BY THE STARS (47) (D) (T F F Noon) H Day 10 11 1	
1		4	-05120		
1	\	5	11030R	light blad, black cross balls, and cap, white spots: DANGER BARY (63) (C) (D) (Sterk Racing) P Bowen 9 10 13	A P McCoy
1		6	424-34	clash green, rad agents and algeres, black cap CARIBOO GOLD (USA) (70) (blis S C Nelson) K Bailey 10 10 6	_N Williamson
ł		7	3FmF	white, dark blue star, stewer and cap ZAGGY LANE (7) (0) (ET Way) P Rodlard 7 10 0	
İ	ı	8	2:23	fight blue, not stars, stripped alteres and cap HERHORSE (35) (8F) (Mas A H-Chappell) Miss A Howard-Chappell 12	10 0R Thorns
1	1			black, white hoops, trained aleques, quartered cap.	

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Zaggy Lane Stat 12th, Herhorse Bas 12th. BETTING: 2-1 Enrimover, 4-1 Zaggy Lane, 6-1 Call It A Day, Gilder Isle, Sall By The Stars, 7-1 Carbbo Gold, 20-1 Danger Baby, 33-1 Hardelfile 1998: Court Melody 10 ft 37 J Marphy 7-2 (P Nichols) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Earthmover: Unbeaten in hunter chease, jumping better when obliging by 19 lengths at Cheltenhern Fisstival. Every chance when fisting 2 out in handcap in November, returning injured. Plenty of potential, and a possible Gold Cup candidate. Call III A Days Just 1th higher than when whining the Whitbread in April, but has desponded since respectance this term. May well need a longer this than the Sail By The Starrs: On same mark as when registering fourth win (by 10 tengths) lest term. Decemt titth in Welsh National, when 3m5/s/ may have been too tar Gitter late: Blew winning chance with slow jump at the lest against Eudipe at Sendown Sm5/s, soft). Very disappointing second favourise in Greet Yorkshire Chase Denger Babby: Refused three times last season and, after two wins in June, an unsatisfactory temperament also seems to have got the better of him this term Cariboo Gold: Well treated on his performances at the Cheltenham Festival and in the Whitbread last term. Feit third on respectance, but below form last time Zaggy Lase: Looked winner long way out but than had to bettle when completing last-rick by 2'le lengths from Oban at Taunton (2m5/, heavy). Early table neat time Heritorea: Placed in amagisti facts this term, 160 out of the handicap proper VERDICT: When the season started, Earthmover was the further chaser conis-VERDICT: When the season started, Earthmover was the hunter chaser conit dered most likely to figure in the Gold Cup. He is now a 20-1 chance for Chattenhan derec most stery to higher it the state of the transport of an injury he scattained training missed out on the big mose in between because of an injury he scattained on his handicap debut at Newton Abbot, and will probably start a hot involutie today. Better value lies with ZAGGY LANE and Sall By The Stars, the former who locked

2.00 GAME SPIRIT CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) BBC1 230,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £18,033
1 /P16- ASK TOM (SS2) (CD) (BF) (BT Stevent-Brown) T Tisse 10 11 10
2 24-023 CELIBATE (21) (Stamford Bridge Partnership) C Maryn 8 11 3M A Fizgeral grey and crange (quartered), crange seewes, dert blue cap
3 3-0P21 MULLIGAN (14) (C) (D) (Ludy Harris) D Nicholson B 11 3
4 1912 NEARLY AN EYE (21) (CD) (BF) (J Keighin/P Berbar) P Nichols 8 11 3
5 005-ft NIPPER REED (42) (CD) (Miss J Rumlord) R Simpson 9 tt 3
6 336R30 OR ROVAL (FR) (21) (D) (D A Johrson) M Pipe 8 m S A P MicCo royal blue, emerate green elevels, white cap, emerate green spoke. — 6 declared —
BETTING: 15-8 Ask Tons, 7-2 Multigan, 7-2 Calibate, Or Royal, 8-1 Nearly An Eye, 10-1 Nipper Red 1998: Ask Tom 9 11 10 R Gantity 13-8 far (7 Tate) 4 tan

Ask Your: Second in the 1997 Champion Chase and won the 1997 Tingle Creek, making him the one to best on form. Performed less well (after a setback) in last year's Champion and was also not at his best to win this race 12 months ago
Celibarte: Falls short of the top class, but ran to his best less time when just over 6
lengths third of 7 to Cell Equiname in the Victor Chandler at Kempton (2m, soft) tengths third of 7 to Call Equineme in the Victor Chandler at Kempton (2m, soft) Multigent: Has been blighted by jumping problems, but enters the rectoring on his error-free, last-gasp win over Anabranch at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). Nearly An Eye: Fasourite, won abt in a row (at 2m to 2m4t, most on soft surface) before 6-lengths second to Super Coin at Haydock. In form, but fair bit to find Niper Reedt Sound jumping displays to make all both starts in novice chases, besting Coller 8ay 3 lengths here (2m1f, soft) last time. Stiff task as a novice Or Royat: hiss plenty of talent but too little enthusiesm, refusing to race stall on one occasion this term. Would have a sound chance if producing his best form

FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: The reluctant Or Royal and sidelined ASK TOM make most appeal on form, but there are clearly doubts about whether either will run to his best today. Calibate and Mulligan, both with good runs to their rama last time, might therefore have rather leas to find than it appears at first glanca. A win for Nearly An Eye or Nipper Reed would be a much bigger shock for form students.

2	.35	TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE BBCT
_	لتتب	(Grade 3) (A) £100,000 2m 110yds £57,375
	P21-80	RAINBOW FRONTER (7) (D) (CD Smith) M Ppe 5 20 T J Murphy
		émenaki grasn, yelitow spots, hakeni sleeves, pumle cato
	351/35	DREAMS END (63) (D) (T & Price) P Eastern 11 17 13
		red, park dismond, pink cap, white spors
	1237,14	SHANKAR (14) (CD) (Internetional Physicoci Pic) D Nicholson 8 11 12 O MicPinel (5)
		White, mercon hooses, chevitore on sleaves
	11-3-0	UPGRADE (77) (II) (M Archeritéss J Branchuse) N To-Dames 5 TI 10 C Unwallyn
	4	it blue, marron charron, halved steeres, light blue and marron quartered cap
	2237	SHAFFICAL (350) (CD) (Thubs Tropograms It N Hardeson 7 ft C
•		emerald green, yellow strare, yellow cap
	12-423	CITY HALL (42) (ID) (Mrs R F Key Mrs V C Ward) Mrs Y Ward 5 11 ID IT Thorston V
		beige, light blue hoop, amiles and dap
	FO2P1	RAMMATCH (14) (CD) (Mit A C Fanaci) M Pice 5 ft 9 (4ex) A P McCoy B
		royal blue, red stars, sleeves and star on cap
	T254	WAKEEL (USA) (7) (CD) (M Crasoush) M Farmy 7 7 5 L Concorn (7)
		black, pink epaulate, hahed alesses, surped cap
	5-3311	EFFECTUAL (16) (0) (6 C Dos) Miss V Williams 8 11 3 (4ex)
		emerald green, black hoops, helved steeves, emerald green cap
ı	201225	POLAR PROSPECT (14) (D (BF) (Mrs D Last'B Yans) P Hooks 6 11 1
		Rid and emerald green diamonds
	21-362	DECOUPAGE (77) (D) (J F Dean) C Egerton 7 tl 0
		dark blum, light blue cross beits, light blue and white quartered cup
	171-4 0	SENATOM (USA) (14) (D) & cristop Start) D Elementin 6 to 13 P Holley V
	a de Pa	print and dish blue stopes, pink shares and cap
	L-CH-1	TIUTCHEV (21) (D) (Lura Poter Parenesho) D Nicholson 6 to 13 (4e)
	0.4694	rad and yellow subject, haired slatteres, yellow cap
	- COO	AMATIGE (FR) (64) (0) (P Lake/H Lake) M Pipe 5 10 10

SETTING: 11-8 Tatchev, 5-1 Decoupage, 5-1 Stampical, Poter Prospect, 16 materia, Effectual, 20-1 Vent D'Aout, City Hell, Sadier's Realin, 25-1 others 8. Sherpical 6 ft 1 M A Fizgerald 10-1 (N Henderson) 14 ras FORM GUIDE

Reinbow Frontier: A leading sevenile last term but has not shone (admittedly against Rebecca first occasion and in hot hardicap last week) this season and in hot hardicap last week) this season are End: Well beginn on Flat in 1998 and beginn long way over hurdles since ir: Missed last seeson, Has needed both starts this term, well held in fifth ed) of 11 to Reinweich at Cheltenham. Nice sort, but needs to en ograde: Won last year's Trumph (2m1/, good). 11 lengths shed to More Dash Thancash Sharpton on return Ran bady (ground possibly too soft) last tree Sharpton: 10th higher than when winning this (good) last year by 3 lengths from 3 lengths from 8 lengths from Karawi. Messed Chempion Hurdle with nighry and unraced some City Half; 11/4 lengths second to the 1988 Trustoph. 7/4-length second to Toto Tosca-to (gave 8tb) at Ascot and 7 lengths third to Moorsh here. both over 2m on soft tch: Blinkered, back to form under bold ride from McCov at Chelse seks ago, making most and holding Polar Prospect (rec 18) by 1/4 length Walkeel: Won three handcaps off much lower marks last season. Stiff tasks this term and has not well, 10 lengths behind Midnight Legend at Sendown last week Effectual: Odde-on winner of small-field handcaps at Doncaster (2mt) good and Fontwell (off this mark, second was eased). This is much more competitive Polar Prospect: Won £34,000 handicap at Sandown (2m, good). Has kept his form well, despite coming off bindle some way out behind Rainwatch at Cheltenham Decoupage: Fourth in £30,000 handicap at Cheltenham (2m, good) and 5 lengths Decompage: Four of it County Immediate a Circumstry well treated, but can progress Becarior No chance on this season's form in Chellantern handicaps won by Tutchev and Ramwatch, but was backward. Sixth in the 1996 Supreme Novices' Tutchev. Easy winner at Chellantern and Kempton (35) lower here despite a ponalaince the weights for this were published. Very much the one to beat lige: Fifth in the 1998 Triumph. Has not gone on, parily because of poor jump-Amage: Fifth in the 1998 Thumph. Has not gone on, parily because of poor jumping but has also been tried over longer trips and is not suited by a soft surface
sadler's Reatins Second in 1998 Imperial Cup. 8th higher than when winning at Chepstow (2m5t, good) by 11/k lengths. Below form since, 11th in the Ladbroke
Vent D'Aout: Sodh in the Triumph. Easily best effort in handicaps since when making most to win at Taunton (2m1t, heavy) by 11/k lengths. Has to improve
Allster Rims Missed most of last season. Back-to-form 6 lengths second to Tudchev
at Kempton (2m, soft), but received 15th that day as opposed to 7th today
Siren Song: Novice. Won soft-ground events at Worcester and Lingfield, latter a handicap off 2th lower mark. Ran poorly next time. Open to improvement

VERDICT: It is impossible to oppose TIUTCHEV, although, of course, those without ante-post vouchers will probably not get too rich at these odds; he is thrown in at the weights and is capable of even more improvement. If there is a threat, it could come from Shampical, who won in good style last year but gives the impression that everything has to go right for him. Decoupage has solid place prospects. More spec-ulative cases can be made for Upgrade (the ground is turning in his favour). Amilige

3.05 TANGLEY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3m Penalty Value £5,995 25-111 FLAXLEY WOOD (14) (D) (Mrs D.A.La Trobe) R.Buckler 8 11 12... BETTING: 2-5 Kadou Nonantale, 5-1 Flooley Wood, 10-1 Act Of Felth, Monagon Man, 16-1 Haven't

FORM VERDICT KADOU NONANTAIS is a high class novice, surely good enough to win this barring accidents, even if the ground is not as soft as he would like, Fladley Wood is repected after that bold show at Cheltenham last time, but Act Of Faith gels 10th and he could also be considered for forecast purposes.

An Ocean, 25-1 Millersford 1998: Copper Boy 9 11 12 B Powell 2-15 fav (A Buckler) 2 ren

3.35 LANDSDOWNE CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) 26,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,878 -521F1 DR JA2Z (NZ) (15) (P A Deal) M Pipe 7 Tl 12 53-211 PERFECT VENUE (23) (D) (Maron Partnership) N Herderson 6 Tl C . M A Pitzgerald 0 JACKSON COURT (23) (Mrs A Marstral) P Hoobs 5 11 4____ R Widger (5) 8006 VELMEZ (14) (R Mathew) P. Mathew 6 11 4

SETTING: 7-4 The Fly, 5-2 Perfect Venue, 4-1 Dr Jazz, 11-2 Noble Demand, 12-1 Motel, 16-1 Jackson Court, Kylami, The Red Rector, 25-1 others

1998 Zamakesko 7 11 9 R Johnson 2-1 Igy (D Nicholson) 15 ran FORM VERDICT

11 344323 NOBLE DEMAND (USA) (14) (Mrs E A Haycock) G Baking 4 10 5

Few Flat-recess of the calibre of The Fly switch to hurdling, and if he takes to this game he will make short work of these male. He taked to go on the level last year however, and, at fikely short odds, is worth opposing with NOBLE DEMAND with is progressing along the right lines and came up against two of the best poversion

A OF HARWELL LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B)

-19			•-	,
		£15,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £10,013		
1		FLYING INSTRUCTOR (21) (Mrs.) Webber 9 m 7	-	J Ceborne
2	1-1213	WAYWARD KING (30) (Fieldspring Recirg) R Hodges 7 & 12		N Williameon
3	0.111-	COPPER BOY (364) (CD) (C Raymond) R Buckler 10 to 10		B Powell
4	2303P-	WITH MAPURATY (204) (D) (G Z Masel) P Michalls 10 10 7		ومصرا ا
5	.P-005	GO UNIVERSAL (15) (D) (Universal Conference) N Chance 11 (1):	1	d A Fitzgerald
		- death and		

must werete: 10st 7to. True handicae welches: Wat Insourie, 10st 25s, Co Universit 4st 15s. SETTING: 15-8 Flying Instructor, Wayward King, 3-1 Copper Boy, 5-1 With Impunity, 20-1 Co Uni-

1998: Goldeb Springt 11 10 tf M A Fitzgerald 4-1 (N Henderson) 6 ran

FORM VERDICT

The responsance of the exciting COPPER BOY is the feature of this race, and this course and distance winner has most to lear from Wayward King and Flying

4.35 PANGBOURNE STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £2,931 21 KONGFISHER FLYER (21) (D) (M E Fisher) P Webber 5 11 10 . R Gamby 13 MONSIGNOR (77) (D) (BF) (Malcolm C Dennant) M Paman 5 to 10 . If J Murphy 2-51 NO FORECAST (NO) (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 5 to 10 . . . A Maguery 1 SANDY DUFF (36) (D) (Lord Carranon) P Webber 5 ft 10 FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (H. Morreon) H. Morreon 5 11 4 . . T Jacks R Macacy 4 MONTPELIER (21) (BF) (Navibury Owners Group) N Henderson 6 11 4 M A Fitzsezald CRSWELL CREST (RIM E Winghl) PHobbs 5 12 4... R Widger (5)

PAPATUU (NZ) (Siver Fern Partnershp) C Mann 5 11 4 RHINO (Mrs R Britten-Long) Loxd Tyrone 5 11 4 N Williamson 4 SPANISH MAIN (80) (C 8 Sanderson) N Tension-Davies 5 11 4 . . C Uswellyn D. STAR GENERAL (36) (Nelson Morrison Underwinning) ? George 6 ft 4 R Femant THE PUFFIN MAN (Coin Freven) N Henderson 6 ft. 4 J R Kavanagh WORTLEY BOY (Three Of A Kind Racing) L Grassack 5 Tl 4 CITY EXPRESS (Peter M Crane) J Alichurs 4 108 JA McCarthy

2 REPUNCEL (28) (Michael Walt) N Gaselee 4 103 0 N/cPhali (5) - 25 declared -

BETTING: 15-8 Golden Alpha, 9-2 Kingfleher Plyer, 11-2 Monsignor, Sandy Duff, 10-1 No Forecast, Go Man, 12-1 Montpelier, The Puffin Man, 16-1 others 1998: Franco Tan 6 10 11 M Keightey (7) 12-1 (N Twiston-Davies) 13 ran

FORM VERDICT

GOLDEN ALPHA, the well-backed easy winner in his only start for former trainer Paddy Mulins, looks the likeliest winner. With the bookes likely to be pretty conservative in pnoing up Golden Alpha, Sandy Duff is a bigger-priced each-way afternative.

HAYDOCK

3.45 Step On Eyre (nb)

1.40 Samakaan 2.10 Finewood 4.15 Kings Measure 2.40 Blueshaan 3.15 Michattie

4.45 Tinotops INSEPECTION: 7.30AM

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). ■ Left-hand course with imposing drop fences and run-in of two furlongs.
■ Course is near junction of AS80 and M6. Newton station 2m, ADMISSION: County Stand £17; Tettersails £10; Newton Stand £5 (OAPs half-price in Tattersails and Newton Stand), CAR PARK: Free.

EN SERIO), CAN PARIC 1988.

HVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 35-52 (23%), N Twiston-Davies 19-81 (23.5%), D Nicholson 13-62 (21%), Nrs M Reveley 11-67 (16.4%), J FitzGarald 9-46 (19.6%), LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 20-70 (28.5%), C Llewellyn 13-59 (22%), A paire 12-52 (23.1%), C Maude 11-45 (24.4%), W Mareton 10-47 (21.3%). FAVOURITES: 129-327 (39.4%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Share Options (345)

	.40	LEVY BOARD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS added 2m Penalty Value \$2,970	D) £4,00
١,	631	GET THE POINT (S) (D) (R L Houston) S Gollings 5 11 9	
12	143	LAWAHSK (31) (CD) Lisch Joseph) C Marri 5 11 9	R Dumeco
lз	4/1	SAMAKAAN (19) (D) (Lody Hards) Miss V Williams 6 11 9	readel, R
4	00	BIG ATOLL (NZ) (26) (Startey W Clarke) S Brockshaw 7 tt 4	W Marston
) s		COLOMBIAN GREEN (F181) (T J Whiley) D Gandolio 5 tl 4	
l 6		PRINCE OF MY HEART (F133) (G J Holes) Mrs M Jones 6 11 4	L W
17	P/350P	ROYRACE (SS) (Andrew Bens) W Brisbourne 7 Ti 4	
8		LIMORICK LADY 657) (S.P. Hudson) B Rothwell 5 (D. 18	
j		ROLLING PATCH (7) (Only Fools Heart Horses) E Alston 5 to 13	
10		TYCOON TENA (F7) (A N Brooks Renkin) W Brisbourne 5 10 13	
1~	_	- 10 declared -	
) BEI	TD4G: 2-1	Samakaan, 5-2 Lavabilit, 4-1 Prince Of My Heart, 5-1 Get The Point	t, 7-1 Colombi
		lig Atoli, 50-1 others	•

1998: Damperous Guest 6 TI 4 C Llewellyn 6-1 (J Olch 17 ran FORM VERDICT

SAMAKAAN, who made a good impression on his beliated reappearance, is a far-ly confident choice to defy his penalty at the principal expense of fellow Suprame Novices' Hurdie nominees Lawretalk and d Prince Of My Heart. 2.10 HAYDOCK PARK SPONSORSHIP CLUB 'NH' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (C) £6,500 added 2m £4,486

BETTRIC: 11-4 Finewcood, 7-2 Catifate Kelth, Mr Busky, 5-1 Developte, 7-1 Ahmydoubleyou, Mr Perfects, 8-1 Black Builet 1998: Helive Cherm 6 11 4 J A McCarthy 4-1 (C Modock) 8 can

FORM VERDICT FINEWOOD has made a really good impression this winter and though it's asking a lot for him to give the weight away in this quite competitive little handicap, he may well be up to the task.

LADBROKE FREEPHONE 0800 524524 H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,840 1FOP-P MOCKSKY (70) (Terry Nail) M Ploe 6 ft 18 ... SCHOOL SAMANDO (14) Rist Thomas O'Doich Miss L School 7 to 7 SCHOOL SAMIT CREL (USA) (57) (CD) (Tam Recing) F Jorden 11 to 3 23-330 DICTUM (14) (D) (Miss R A Humphree) Miss H Knight 8 to 3 _R Durancock 3-1USP MILLESHAAN (63) (D) (I E Brown) C Marin 6 11 2 _____

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Ballini 9st 10th, Little Guinner 9st 10th, Camden Fellow 8st 10th SETTING: 5-2 Quick March, 3-1 Dictom, 4-1 Sementil. 7-1 Saint Clei, 8-1 Blusshean, 10-1 Little Ganner, 12-1 Nocksky, 33-1 others

1996: Green Crussdert 7 10 1 R Thomson 10-1 (Mas V Word) 16 ran FORM VERDICT

Martin Pipe will no doubt find the key to Nocksky sooner or later, but on this occasion the saler but tooks to be DACTUM, who is presumptily none the worse for his barging match at Cheleriham recently. He showed enough there to suggest he turn was not far off, and he is preferred to Samanid and Guick March.

and state with the state of the

3.15 HLH TIMBER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £6,938 3-Lim MARLEOROUGH (21) (D) (Robert Ogden) H Daby 7 11 10...... mouve and pink check, white sleeves 32-134 TRUE SCOT (92) (John Wade) J Wade 9 11 10..... clash green and white stopes, black and white stoped steeces. -5 declared BETTING: 8-11 Marthorough, 7-2 Michattle, 5-1 Chicodari, 14-1 Chartie Foxtrot, 28-1 True Scot son County 8 11 4 C Liewellyn 10-3 (P Hobbs) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE Martborough: Progressive chaser and the type to get even better. Won easily from the front in a better race at Kempton after Worcester and Lingfield, and stays further Tirue Scot: Easy winner of small race at Hexham but found out since at Wetherby and Newcastle. Unlikely to have the pace to trouble the principals over today's sho

Chartle Footrot: Burnoer and hurdles winner in Ireland (bought 8,500gns). Highly tried in two chases over the minimum trip. Could just do better for this trip Chicodari: Lightly raced over hurdles since juvenile days. Very highly tried on chasing debut (and on first start after a lengthy lay-off) behind Flaxley Wood at Cheltenham (besten 43 lengths) and can do batter

Michaetile: Flat winner in New Zealand and decent novice hunder (faced massive task behind Deano's Beeno here last time). Very much the type to do well over fences VERDICT: MARLBOROUGH was promising over hundles for Tim Forster and has YEMDIL II: MAREBUSTOUGH was promong over natures on the continued the trend over tences for Henry Daly. He has a witning look again with just a 6th penalty and chasing newcomer Michattis will have to put in a trouble-tree round to beat him. Chicoderi could be the surprise package after being asked a stem question on his comeback afternpt at Cheltenham a fortright ago.

3	.45	MAD HATTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m Penalty Value £10,055
	/32P41	KONNEKTA KING (7) (C) (Korvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 11 '2 0
!	122-11	STEP ON EYRE (30) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) H Daly 9 11 8R Johnson yellow, narrow black belt and cap with gold issue!
l	114232	SHARE OPTIONS (19) (Steve Harmstrot) T Easterby 6 10 9
ļ	31- 64 U	WELL TRIED (16) (D) (Max G A Roberts) R Frost 9 10 7 J Frost emerate green, grapenne alseres and spots on black cap
1	32/B11	GROZZY BEAR (17) (D) (G B Barlow) R Strongs 9 10 2
Er i		Grizziy Busz, 15-8 Step On Eyre, 5-1 Shere Options, 6-1 Konvekta King, 12-1 Well

1998: Ornádis Brook 9 10 10 Mr R Waldey (3) 6-1 (K Bailey) 10 ran FORM GUIDE

Konvelida King: Tailed off in Super Coin's race on lest viert here (2m) and then a short head winner from Cumbrian Challenge at Weitherby (2m4). Trip and big weight Step On Eyre: Ex-Insh golding who continues to progress. Relished the longer trip to beat Young Kenny and Share Options with plenty in hand at Wetherby (3m1f) last

Chief at Wetherby lest time. Previously besten 10 lengths by the essed-down Step On Eyre on same course and 7th pull not enough for a form reversal Well Timed: Wincenton and Chapstow winner lest season and has carried big weights

recently. Doesn't look up to this task Grazdy Bear: In fine heart with easy wins at Warwick (beat High Mood) and Ling-field (beat Kingdom Of Shades). Every chance here getting 20th from Step On Eyre VERDICT: Grizzly Bear is the type for this raca, being bang in form and carry-inc a low weight in the muddy conditions. But STEP ON EYRE has won in a stronger

g	rade, no	tably at Wetherby with Share Options struggling in thrd. and is fancied to to Robert Stronge's charge.
4	.15	STAKIS CASINOS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (B) £10,000 added 2m 4f Penaity Value £6,744
1		L'OPERA (FIG. (14), (Similar Ahmed At Makisson) () Nicholson 6 11 10
2		KINGS MEASURE (7) (CID) (J H Wilson)M Elicit() Blacketti J M Jafferson 6 ft 3 L Wyer light green and durk blue check, light green sleaves and cup
3		TREASURE AGAIN (15) (C) (J.H Gwynne) Mas M Jones 10 tl 0
4	0-1222	EXPLAIN THIS (11) (Link Leasing Partnership) C Marm 7 10 8
5		THE BUTTERWICK KID (19) (BP) (A Chambers) A Febry 6 10 5
8	F2-232	HARLEOUIN CHORUS (14) (Hartequin Sottware) Mrs. J Pirman 9 10 0

Minimum weight: 10st. True herricap weight: Hericapin Chorus 8st 128b. BETTNR: 5-2 Kings Measure, 3-1 Hartequin Chorus, 7-2 The Suttanwick Kid, 3-2 L'Opera, 11-2 Explain This, 10-1 Treasure Again. seef- Dana Point 6 10 13 R Guest 7-2 it tay (Mrs S Smith) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE L'Opera: Stiff task under 12st on last two starts after beating Harieoun Chorus in

3-runner race at Warwick, 4th less to shoulder here so has chances of reversing latest form (4th to Easter Ross at Doncaster) with Harlequin Chorus (2nd) Kings Measure: Ran unaccountably badly when well fanced at Sandown last Saturday (race won by Teastral). Good winner previously and has scored on this course. Could easily bounce back reunited with last year's winning partner Lorcan Wyer Treesure Again: Formerly smart staying hurdler and an 11-length 3rd to Brother Of Ins over fences last time. Probably wants further than this nowadays. Explain This: Cheltenham novice winner in October and ran well to sold Salamah and Father Krismas at Yaunton last time. First run in handicap and up in trip The Butterwick Kid: Mud-lowing stayer who had dual subsequent winner Teastra 10 lengths back when winning at Wetherby (2m7h, Below that form on the stone course next time behind Birkdale (winner since). Capable of a better show today Harlequin Chorus: A tricky ride and wibbled about at Uttoxeter (against L'Opera) on reappearance. Cocked law and swerved left when 2nd to Easter Ross at Don caster last time with L'Opera just over 3 lengths behind

VERDICT: Melcolm Jetterson is quick to bring out KINGS MEASURE after a bad showing at Sandown last Saturday. The move suggests all is well with the gelding. who returns to the scene of one of his wins of last season. The Butterwick Kild is also out to recoup heavy losses after the desmal phowing at Wetherby, and L'Opera could be the one to take full advantage if the other pair are again below par

4.45 WALRUS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) \$10,000 C4 added 3m Penalty Value £7,035 PFP33- CELTIC AGREY (259) (D) (G.J. Powell) Mrs C Hardings 11 2 7 ... Mr D S Jones (D) amber this hoop and entire hise and when broned exc. 651RS- CHERRYNAUT (283) (D) (T D B Barlow) Mrs S Mulineaux 10 12 7.... Mr D Barlow (5) red and royal blue diabolo, royal blue sleeves, samed cap 1221-R LAST OPTION (7) (D) (BF) (R Tale) R Tale 7 12 7 Mrs F Needham (3) gald, maroon hoops, poid sleeves 311-F1 TINOTOPS (P14) (D) (R H H Targett) Mrs R Vickery S 127...... ... Miles S Vickery (3) dark blue and light blue (halved), halved sleeves, dark blue cap 112-2 VARYICHOV (P20) (D) (Mark G Renell) Mark G Rimell 10 12 4....... Ide M Rimell purple, pink sieeves, green cap 4-0403 LAURA LUGS (140) (R Hambro) Mrs M Hambro 7 12 0 Mr H Hambry (7) perk, dank blue seems, perk cap TOPUF/ MINISHEANLES (PS78) (F Nicholls) F Nicholls 9 12 0........ Mr G Thomas (7) 233FP- ROUGH QUEST (315) (D) (A T A Wates) T Casey 13 12 0 Mr M Bradburre (3) newy blue, green sash, cense COp

white, royal blue star, royal blue sleaves, white armiess, white cap, royal blue star. - 10 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Rough Carest, 11-4 Last Option, 5-1 Joy For Life, 11-2 Tinologe, 7-1 Celtic Abboy Varykinov, 10-1 Cherrymut. 33-1 others 1996: Fantastic Reet 8 11 7 Mr E Williams (7) 16-1 (Mrs J Webber) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Coltic Abbert: Formerly with Vanetia Williams and a decent hunter, Early faller in the National and may struggle on this first run since May with ground probably too soft Charrynut: Smart pointer and ex-Paul Nichol's handicooper who makes mistakes. Stiff task on final start lest season and probably best watched on reappearance Last Option: Winning pointer who upset the odds laid on Double Thriller at Strattors in May (good, Sm4f). Favourite on reappearance but lost bridle when clouting the 8th and was allowed to run out. Very usaful and will go close with a trouble-free round **Tinotops:** Looked held when a last-fence father at Larkhill and creatly helped by Still In Business' fall two out to acore on the same course next time. Bear Rightsardired last season so must have a leading chance today

Mr Bueker: All out to beat Highway Five in hunter chase at Bangor last season and probably not good enough here after a poor showing in a recent point Verykingy; Dual points winner and easy scorer in weak number at Wordester Ran well on reappearance in a point with game 2nd to Better Future Laura Large: Marden pointer in Ireland and probably flattered when 3rd to Village

King and Zaitoon as Worcester in September anles: Modest performer and hard to fancy on first run since April 1997 Rough Quest: Class performer and the 1996 Grand National winner after his 2nd to imperial Call in the Gold Cup. Good placed runs last season before pulling up in the National. Best when ridden for a late run and winning chance against these Joy For Life: Easy winner at Ascot after being outclassed by Teeton Mill at Newbury. Ran well for long way against Double Thriller and Teeton Mill at Cheffenhern on

VERDICT: The appearance of ROUGH QUEST makes for a doubly-misressing hunter chase. The oldstager needs a bit of knowing and Mark Bradburne will be holding on to him for a tate thrust from the final fence. The occopion is decent with Last Cotion and Joy For Life having done battle with Double Thriler, and Tinotope being a recent Larkhill winner. But Rough Quest has to be the choice with the weights so

final start. Useful mare who can improve further this campaign

Henman's nemesis strikes Wigan look vulnerable

BY JOHN ROBERTS in Dubai

JUST WHEN the local expat population was getting to like the idea of Tim Henman coursing through the Dubai Duty Free Open, the British No 1's form dipped in the fourth round. To make matters worse, Henman's defeat, 7-6, 7-5, was at the hands of Jerome Golmard, the French left-hander who ruined his start to last year.

Golmard, who beat Henman in the first round of the 1997 Australian Open - 11-9 in the fifth set of the longest match in the tournament - was again in stubborn

The Frenchman forced the only break point in the first set, which lasted 64 minutes, only to net a forehand off a solid second serve. Henman, steadying his serve, then managed to take Golmard to deuce in each of the Frenchman's first three service games but was unable to produce the finishing touch.

Suspect baseline calls at both ends momentarily unsettled the players in the fourth game, but Golmard continued to resist Henman's attacks and gradually his own serving improved.

A Henman drive was deflected wide by the net cord on the first point of the tie-break, but Golmard then missed a forehand when attempting a backhand for 3-1. Henman temporarily led, 3-2. thanks to his ninth ace, but was then wrong-footed and netted an improvised shot behind his back.

Henman missed with two backhand volleys and netted a backhand drive to give Golmard three set points at 6-3. The Frenchman missed the first, hitting a backhand long, but converted the second with a forehand drive to win the shootout, 7-4. Although disappointed with the course the match had taken, Henman continued to probe for an opening. He broke for 3-2 in the second set, but this failed to dent Golmard's confidence, and the Frenchman immediately broke back for 3-3.

Henman raised hopes by breaking for 5-4, courtesy of a Golmard double fault only to lose the advantage after double-faulting himself to 30-40 when serving for the match. Golmard struck again in the 12th game, breaking to love to win after an hour and 55 minutes.

The Australian coach Bob Brett has been the mentor to some volatile characters in his time - Boris Becker, Goran German threw a tantrum.



Pete Sampras makes a forehand return on his way to a 7-5, 6-3 win over the Argentinian Martin Rodriguez at the Sybase Open in San Jose AP

Ivanisevic and Andrei Medvedev - and his latest client, Nicolas Kiefer, is no exception. Kiefer's progress to the semi-finals has been eventful, although Brett would probably choose a different word.

On the way to beating Albert Costa, the Spanish No 6 seed, inthe second round, 6-3, 7-6, Kiefer squandered a 4-0 lead in the second set, and Brett walked out of the stadium when the 31-year-old

Yesterday, Brett stayed the ond round. Kiefer, who led 5-1 in match after breaking for 3-1, course, but was pleased to have brought a coat with him as Kiefer's quarter-final against the Spaniard Francisco Clavet stretched over three hours and five minutes, starting in the afternoon sun and finishing under

floodlights, at 7-6, 6-7, 6-2. Kiefer once again came close to blowing his chances - a situation Clavet must be growing accustomed to after beating Greg ble to win a tie break, 9-7, on his eighth set point.

four break points on serve at 5-5 and held two match points in the tie-break, which he lost, 6-8. The German reacted by tossing his racket, the balls and his towel, incurring a code violation.

The umpire's intervention concentrated Kiefer's mind. He

the opening set, had to scram- dropping only one point in the concluding two games.

"I can stay calm, and I can In the second set, Kiefer had talk a lot," Kiefer said. "I know I have to stay calm when you see what happened with Agassi," he added, referring to the American's disqualification for swearing at a linesman in San Jose.

Speaking of characters, tonight Kiefer plays Andrew Ilie, the Romanian-born Australian have made him the most popular player here. Ilie advanced by deleating Gustavo Knerten, the Brazilian former French Open champion, 6-4, 6-4.

■ Pete Sampras and Mark Philippoussis overpowered their second-round opponents to reach the quarter-finals of the Sybase Open in San Jose. Sampras beat the Argentinian Martin Rodriguez, 7-5 6-3, while Philippoussis thrashed Dutch-Rusedski from 3-6, 0-3 in the sec- controlled his temper and the whose spirited performances man John Van Lottum, 6-2 6-1.

severe set-up that has been pro-

duced this week. "I could not

sleep on Wednesday night," he

admitted. "I was worried I

Justin Rose was not quite

that bad but he was 17 over

after rounds of 78 and 83.

"Today was my hardest on a

golf course," the 18-year-old,

who has now missed 13 cuts in

13 pro events, said, "I didn't

know where the ball was going.

Holing a three-foot putt be-

came the mission for the day."

week before the Qatar Masters

swing is out of sync." He is be-

ginning to sound, ominously,

like Faldo. But Ken Rose, his

The mission for the next

would not break 90."

to Leeds

WITH ALL due respect to a tie today between last year's surprise Wembley victors and the BY DAVE HADFIELD side they beat in the semi-finals. the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is dominated by tomorrow's game between the two strongest clubs in the

The was a groan that echoed from the Leeds Hilton to Lanzarote – where Leeds were on a pre-season training camp -when they came out of the bag with Wigan.

As events have panned out since, however, it could be Wigan who have the more to groan about. They won the one that mattered last year, beating Leeds in the Grand Final, but the loss of Tony Smith with a broken ankle for this tie has exposed some gaps in their squad.

Mark Reber, who has been a bit-part player from the bench for North Sydney for the last few seasons, only flew into Britain on Tuesday. Tomorrow, he will play most of the match at scrum-half, a position he has not filled regularly since his rugby union days.

John Monie's only alternative is to use Jason Robinson in a role he has only occupied on an occasional basis. Neither is an ideal solution and a contest between two closely matched sides could be tilted Leeds' way as a result.

On top of that, there are a few cracks behind the scenes at Central Park - a worrying state of affairs at this stage of the season. Leeds will smell their

chance. They also had good news yesterday when Richie Blackmore and Daryl Powell were both passed fit. That left their coach, Graham Murray, with only the problem of who plays at hooker. He has resolved that

RUGBY LEAGUE

incumbent, Terry Newton, with the new signing, Lee Jackson,

on the bench Barrie McDermott, who began only five games last season, gets the vote at prop and will be in direct opposition to his great mate, Terry O'Connor, in what could be, despite their friendship, an explosive collision,

Leeds expect a crowd of over 20,000 for a tie which is not all-ticket and has been protected from the weather by having the under-soil heating turned on since Wednesday.

The meeting today between Sheffield Eagles and Salford would be the highlight of most Cup draws. Salford are still simmering over the way the Fagles came back in last year's semi, but both sides have changed a lot since that day.

Of the two, Salford's surgery has been the more drastic. After a season which never recovered from that defeat they have eight new players making their debuts today. It is perhaps expecting too

much for their new line-up to gel immediately against opponents who will fight to keep one hand on the trophy they won against all expectations last May.

The two surviving amateur sides face their moments of truth today with Featherstone Lions taking on Halifax and Leigh Miners-Rangers, who won at Bramley in the last round, meeting Hull KR.

There will be a handshake of Stanley-Livingstone proportions at The Stoop, where the opposing captains, London's Shaun Edwards and Don caster's Garry Schofield, are two of the British game's true by starting with last year's genuine giants.

McRae hit by double mishap

COLIN McRAE'S hopes of victory in the Swedish Rally suffered a massive setback on

yesterday's opening day. McRae badly damaged his left rear wheel when his Ford Focus found a ditch on the sixth special stage.

The Scot was severely hampered over the last few miles of the 13-mile long stage before managing to fit a spare at the end of the timed section. The problem lost him over a

minute and although he still maintained fifth place overall he is now nearly two minutes behind the leader and world champion Tommi Makinen.

That was the second mishao for McRae. He had a new windscreen fitted in the service park after hitting a wooden snow guide on the third stage.

"I'm very happy with things so far," said McRae. "We've made a few minor adjustments at the service park to try to improve the high-speed handling but so far I've been

quite cautious on the ice." Makinen is having a tough time staying ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz with the gap between the two just 0.2sec.

The Finn, who won the season-opener in Monte Carlo last month, used his Nordic knowledge to win two of the opening four stages of the rally before Sainz closed the gap as

the day progressed. Local driver Thomas Radstrom, in a Ford, is in third place 14.4sec adrift with Frenchman Didier Auriol in fourth position, (,) 25.9sec behind.

Makinen seized the lead at the halfway point of the opening leg. He won two of the opening four stages in his Mitsubishi while Sainz was second and Radstrom third.

Sainz won the opening stage of the rally on a snowy, gravel surface, but the Finn responded by finishing in first position on stages two and three. Radstrom, competing in his

home event which he won in 1994, hit a frozen tree stump on the third stage but recovered to set the second fastest time on the stage.

"We hit a frozen tree stump which damaged the car's cross-member," Radstrom said. "I think we were quite fortunate to escape more serious damage."

Faldo misses World Matchplay cut

WHEN THE concept of a series of new so-called World Championship events was announced, Nick Faldo was among those to endorse the project enthusiastically. Now that the first one is less than a fortnight away. Faldo finds himself likely to be excluded because of his world ranking.

The top 64, when the new ranking is issued on Monday, will be eligible for the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay at La Costa in California, Until the computers have done their number crunching no one can be sure who will fill the last few places, but a complex situation was taken out of Faldo's hands when he missed the cut at the Desert Classic.

Currently ranked 65th, this was the second time in three outings that the six-times major

ANTHONY HAMILTON beat

Tony Drago at Wembley late

on Thursday night to join Alan

McManus in the semi-finals

of the Benson and Hedges

The world No 11 from Not-

tingham scored a 6-5 victory to

guarantee a cheque of at least

£40,000, more than double his

best previous pay day. But it was

hard luck on Drago, who de-

scribed his second round suc-

cess over the six-times Masters

champion. Stephen Hendry, as

The Maltese player fired in

three centuries to defeat

Hendry and twice reached

three figures against last sea-

son's Thailand Masters semi-

finalist. He also knocked in

runs of 73, 67, 80 and 59 but

could not shake off the dogged

It was his failure to escape

from snookers that led to

Drago's downfall. Hamilton

was looking at a 5-3 deficit then sank pink and black to win

until he obtained 12 penalty—the match 5-4.

the "best of my career".

Masters.

Hamilton.

Dogged Hamilton

brings down Drago

BY ANDY FARRELL in Dubai

champion has failed to get past the 36-hole cut-off. After an opening 75 at Dubai Creek. Faldo needed a sub-par effort yesterday to progress. Any hope of that disappeared when he mis-hit a sand wedge shot into the water for a doublebogev six at the seventh (his 16th). A 74 left the 41-year-old

Faldo's only comment. That involves playing in the Qatar Masters next week instead of Plan A, which was to head back to Britain on Sunday night and then to America. Though he may not think so, Faldo could still get the call-up.

points and levelled at 4-4 on a

re-spotted black. They shared

the next two frames before Hamilton made sure of a place

in the last four with a decisive

"Tony outplayed me,"

Hamilton said. "At times he

didn't look as though he was

going to miss. That eighth

frame was massive because he

would have been strong

didn't go to plan. I was worried

about my break-building before

the start, but most of the

Earlier, Scotsman McManus

frames were won in one hit."

avenged recent defeats in the

Weish and Irish Opens plus the

German Masters to end the 16

match unbeaten run of Mark

Williams. McManus stumbled

in sight of the winning post. He

led 5-1, nearly finished at 5-5 but.

"Funnily enough, the match

favourite at 5-3 up.

run of 70.

at five over and three outside

the cut. "Plan B, then," was

Ozaki's participation, although Tom Lehman, despite not playing so far this year after shoulder surgery, is expected to

But a number of those

poised just behind Faldo are putting on the pressure. Chris Perry was lying second at the Buick Invitational after one round and Greg Turner was third after two rounds at the Australian Masters, Andrew Coltart, who needs to be in the too five to overtake Faldo is only four off the lead here.

David Howell, the young Englishman who won the Australian PGA last November but was out for eight weeks with a sprained ankle after a fall playing tennis on the day he returned home, held a onestroke advantage after a 68.

BASKETBALL

MBA: Atlanta 100 Charlotte 88: Cleveland 99 San Antonio 89: Orlando 87 Detroit 81: Miam 102 Toronto 84: Minnesota 86 LA Lakers 75: New York 73 Chicago 68: Houston 105 Dollas 95: Milwaukee 95 New Jersey 75: Utah 82 Phoenix 74; Indiana 101 Vancouver 97.

MEN'S EUROLEAGUE: Group E: Crve-

MEN'S EUROLEAGUE: Group E: Cruena Zvezda Belgrade (Yug) 75 Pau-Orthez (Fr) 85: TDK Marresa (Sp) 78 Zaightas Kaunas (Lith) 80: Cruena Zvezda (Yug) 85 Fenerbahce (Tur) 84: Steamdings: 7 Zaigus (Lith) (P15-Ps2 7): 2 Pau Orthez (Fr) (15-23). 3 Fenerbahce (Tur) (15-23). Group F: Saratov (Rus) 87 Maccabi Yell Aviv (Isr) 73: Vitoria (Sp) 83 Efes Pilsen Istanbul (Tur) 61: Varese (It) 63 Panathilados (Gr) 54: Steamdings: 1 Panathilados (Gr) 54: Steamdings: 1 Panathilados (Gr) 54: Steamdings: 1 Panathilados (Gr) 3 Varese (It) (15-25); Z Group 6: Icamsystem Bologna (It) 67 Kinder Bologna (It) 65: Sanara (Rus) 62 CSKA Moscow (Rus) 89: PAOK Salonika (Gr) 72 Clymplakos (Gr) 66: Steamdings: 1 Olymplakos (Gr) (15-26); Z Kinder Sologna (It) (15-24); 3 CSKA Moscow (Rus) (15-24); Group H: KK Zadar (Cra) 61 Olimpia Ljubljana (Stoven) 72: Ulkerspor (Tur) 86 Vilkeurbarne (France) 84: Alsa Sevlin (Ger) 79 Real Masdnd (Sp) 64. Steamdings: 1 Olimpia Ljubljana (Sloven) (15-27); Z Vilkeurbarne (Fr) (15-24) 3 Real Madnd (Sp) (15-23).

BIATHLON

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Helsinid)
Worsen's 7-Sium sprint: 1 M Zeliner
(Ger) 26min 59-9sec; 2 M Forsberg
(Swe) +4 5sec; 3 O Zubrisova (Ular) 8.3.
4 A Akratova (Rus) 17.1; 5 D Heymand-Burlet (Fr) 26.4; 6 O Kegtunen (Fin) 31.1;
7 M Schwarzbacherova (Slovak) 41.1; 8
A Elen Skeibreid (Nor) 42.2; 9 A Grasic
(Sloven) 46.1; 10 O Pegrova (Ukr) 48.9.
Mean's 10km sprint: 1 F Luck (Ger)
29min 5.6sec; 2 P Favre (Ic) +22sec; 3
F Andresen (Nor) 40.8; A L Gredler (Aur)
+1roin 7.3sec; 5 O Manthurs (Lat) 1:08.1;
6 R Gross (Ger) 1:08.5; 7 S Fisher (Ger)
1:08.8; 8 A Androv (Bela) 1:12.7; 9 O
Ryzhenkov (Bela) 1:15.5; 10 J Nakums
(Lat) 1:22.0.

BIATHLON

Doubt surrounds Jumbo While Colin Montgomerie work just because you shoot a course but that was without the lurks on three behind and 69." A second three-under-par Mark O'Meara, who went five round yesterday comfortably under for his last five holes, is surpassed his ambition of betwo back, Howell's closest coming the first Emirates pro challengers were Paul McGinley, the joint overnight leader, of the event. "I am so happy," Wayne Riley and Peter Downie.

> A 36-year-old Scot from Longniddry, Downie is as surprised to see his name on the leader board as anyone else. Having spent seven years in the Cayman Islands as director of golf for a hotel chain, Downie ecame the head pro at Dubai Creek when the club opened six years ago. Though he did not tee off until 11.30, Downie was in his office as usual at 6am.

"I was just checking up on things," Downie said. "People were saying: What are you doing here? But you don't stop

to make the cut in the history he said. "Anything now is a horus. I've never been in this situation so I am just going to enjoy it."

There are now 23 golf pros in the UAE and they have formed their own PGA to run monthly competitions. Downie has won two out of four so far and leads the order of merit with around £500. Now he is guaranteed £2,000. Not bad for is some serious practice. "My someone who describes himself as a "really, really late starter. I never took up golf seriously as

The scores equalled his lowest competitive round on the

father and coach, was adamant: "Justin will come out of this a better player."

Cooper 73 72, 146 P-U Johansson (Swe) 72 74; S Micheel (US) 71 75; 1 Van de Velde (Pr) 77 69; 1 Pane 73 73; R Contalez (Arg) 74 72; D Gifford 71 75; S Kjedsen (Den) 72 74; C Rocca (It) 72 74; R Claydon 75; 1; P Baker 73 73; D Hospital (Sp) 75 71; B Rickerton 73 73; Misseed cate: 148 I Garrido (Sp) 75 73; 148 N Faldo 75 74, 151 I Woossam 78 73; 156 S Ballesteros (Sp) 78 78, 161 J Rose 78 83; "denafts amouteur AUSTRALIAN MASTERS (Hundin

Cenates amareur
AUSTRALIAN MASTERS (Hurating-dale, Michourne) Leading second round scores (Ans unless stated): 187 C Spence 64 73: R Byrd (US) 67 70. 139 C Parry 70 69: G Turner (NIZ) 69 70: W Grady 74 65. 140 D Small (NIZ) 68 72: I Moseley 72 68: P McWhitney 67 73: K Felton 69 71: 141 I Leggatt (Can) 72 69: C Gaunt 69 72: D McKerzle 68 73: S Scanlit (NIZ) 74 67. 142 G Player (SA) 70 72: G Norman 74 68: R Pampiling 69 73: P Gow 71 71: R Backwell 73 69: 143 C Williams (Engl 72 71: M Allen 71 72: E Walters 68 75: B King 77 66: T Price 73 70. Missed cast 146 M Sheppard (Engl 73 76. 157 D Watson (Engl 76 81. BURCK INVITATIONAL (La Jolla, Ca) Laading first round scores (IIS timless stated): 65 T I Tyba. 66 C Perry, B Burns. W Lew, K Miyamoto (Lapan). 67 I Liddlet, D Dunakey, B McCallister, D Paulson. E Booker 68 K Suphertand, 5 Pace, S Etkington (Aus). T Woods, J Williamson. J Gore. J Ellott, B Glasson, W Austin, R Allerby (Aus). SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS (Melison, SA) Leading second round scores (SA)

ICE HOCKEY

SKIING

ALPINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Uall, Colorado) Women's glant

slalom: 1 A Meissnitzer (Aut) 2:08.54;

2 A Flemmen [Nor) 2:08.84; 3 A Wachter

(Aut) 2:09.13; 4 P Wiberg [Swe) 2:09.27;

5 M Ertl (Ger) 2:09.46; 6 C Rey Bellet

[Swit] 2:09.52; 7 D Compagnon! (It)

2:09.90; 8 5 Pretnar (Sloven) 2:09.98;

9 L Piccard (Fr) 2:10.18; 10 A Ottosson

(Swe) 2:10.30. GB: 25 E Carrick-Anderson 2:14.32; 33 C Alcort 2:17.67. Did

not finish first leg; 7 Pirle (GB). Did

not finish second ren: Temson McGarry

(Iti).

BENSON & HEDGES MASTERS (Mem-bley) Courter-fluxist A Hamilton (Eng) bt T Drago (Mai) 6-5; K Doherty (iri) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-2, SQUASH

FLANDERS OPEN (Answerp, Bel) Quarter-Finals: J Power (Can) br D Ryan (In) 15-11 15-10 15-11: A Gough (Wal) br C Walker (Eng) 15-13 15-7 15-10: M Heath (Sco) br S Parke (Eng) 15-11 9-15 15-12 8-15 15-11: J Johnson (Eng) br A Hall (Aus) 15-4 15-6 15-3.

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LTA TOURNAMENT (Birmingham): Vibonesi's singles semi-finals: / Lutrova (Rus) br N Egorova (Rus) 6-2 6-3. LTA TOURNAMENT (Chigwell): Men's singles quarter-finals: G Elsenter (Bel) bt T Spinks (Norfolk) 6-2 6-3; J Knowle (Aut) bt M Belgraver (Nett) 6-4 6-2; A Vinciquer's (Swe) bt J Settergren (Swe) 6-7 7-6 6-4. LTA RINGOR INTERNATIONAL (Bisham Abbey) Boy's singles quarter-finals: J Froberg (Swe) bt B Riby (GB) 5-0 6-1; F Hennies (Nett) bt S Dickson (GB) 6-2 6-1; D Meffert (Ger) bt D Britzen (Ger) 6-4 3-6 7-6. Giff's singles quarter-finals: A Keothavong (GB) bt M Strussova (Sovak) 6-1 6-1, B Heliwig (Aut) bt Berencz (Hun) 6-0 6-2; A Barnes (GB) bt M Hoogland (Neth) 6-2 6-0; E Baltacha (GB) bt C Schaul (Lux) 6-3 6-2.

The number of days by which the World Biathlon Championships in

Helsinki were up to -12C, the event began vesterday.

SPORTING DIGEST

CRICKET Nadeem Khan, the left-arm spinner, limited the damage caused by sloppy Pakistan catching and fielding as he took 4 for 87 against the Indian Board President's XI yesterday. The touring side dropped four catches but Nadeem produced a disciplined effort that restricted the President's XI to a first-innings lead of 25. The Board Law water beauled. effort that restricted the Presi-dent's XI to a first-innings lead of 35. The Board team were bowled out for 282 on the second day of the three-day game and Pakistan, who made 247 for nine declared in the first innings, were 27 for no wick-et at the close, just eight runs adrift. TOUR MATCH (Cochin, Ind) (Second day of three): Pakistan 247-9dec and 27-0. Indian Board President's XI 282.

CYCLING
TOUR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
(110.5km from La Seyne to Lanconde-Prosencé) Second stages 1 J Kirsipus
(Est) Casno 3hr 8min 55sec: 2 J Sweet
(Aut) Big-Mat Auber 93: 3 C Capelle (Fr)
Big-Mat Auber 93: 4 F Baldato (It) Ballan; 5 A Hauptman (Sloven) Vini Caldiroia; 6 A Pizilis (Lat) Jack & Jones: 7 F
Zandarin (It) Riso Scotti; 8 A Kivilev (Kaz)
Festina: 9 R Assez (Bell Home Mariset 10
2 Spruch (Pol) Limpre: all same time.
Overall standings: 1 D Rebellin (It) Polit
7hr (Imin and 48sec; 2 W Bell (It) Festina
4 + Sec; 3 D Moncoutie (Fr) Caffelis 7;
4 M Boogerd (Neth) Rabobant 15; 5 L
Mazzanti (It) Cantina Tollo 25; 6 P Jonker
(Neth) Rabobant 26; 7 B Zberg (Swit)
Rabobant 26; 7 B Zberg (Swit)
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FÖÖTBALL

Stan Ternent, the Burnley manager, has signed Lenny Johnrose from his former club, Bury for £225,000, The 29-year-old central midfielder, who played an integral part in Ternent's success at Bury. follows Gordon

Armstrong and Peter Swan from Gigg Lane to Turf Moor. Johnrose, who started his career with Blackburn, said: "I don't see it as a step backwards, moving into the Second Division. The size of the club and the stabilizing of the people has because ambition of the people has brought me here. I respect Stan and I'm de-lighted to be coming to Burnley." lighted to be coming to Burnley."
Alex Burke, the Kilmarmock winger, yesterday became the latest player to commit himself to the Ayrshire club by signing a two and a half year contract at Rugby Park, The Scotland Under-21 international has been on the fringes of Killie's Premier League title challenge this season but Bobby Williamson, the manager, has confidence in his porential.

GOLF

DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC (Dobal Creek) (GB or let unless stated): 137

DHOwell 69 58. 138 P Downle 69 59; P McGimley 67 71: W Riley (Aus) 68 70, 139

M O'Meara (US) 72 67: W Bennett 69 70; M Jonzon (Swe) 71 68: I Spence 70 69; J Sandelin (Swe) 69 70; R Green (Aus) 72

67. 1405 Y Websher 70 70: E Fryat 70 70; E Lindgren (Swe) 70 70: C Fryat 70 70; E Lindgren (Swe) 70 70: M A Jimenez (Sp) 73 67; J Lomas 74 66: S Thrining (Den) 69 71: A Wall 70 73, 141 J Haeggman (Swe) 72 63: A Celka (Ger) 68 73: S Struver (Ger) 70 71: A Coltart 71 70; P Arlieck 69 72: 'S Garda (Sp) 68 73. 142

'T Introelman (SA) 70 72: J M Olazabai (Sp) 69 73: F Cea (Sp) 6973: M Campbell (N2) 71 71; M James 73 69: T Leve (Fr) 69 73; G Evans 72 70: I Randhawa (Ind) 73 69: G Ott 72 70, 143 R Russell 70 73: D Clarke 70 73: J Rivero (Sp) 72

11: B Lane 69 74: P Nyman (Swe) 71 72: L Westwood 72 71: B May (US) 69 74: A Skerborne 75 68, 144 A Cabrera (Arg) 73 71: M Shington 73 71: D Robertson 71 73: V Phillips 72 72: R McFarlane 72 72. 145 P Culbe (Swe) 73 72: E Darcy 17 74: I Garburt 73 72: T Bjorn (Den) 72 73: S Luna (Sp) 73 70: E Romera (Arg) 70 75: A Oldcorn 76 69; M Mouland 71 74: D GOLF

llott, B Glasson, W Asspin, R Allerby (Aus).
SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS (Wellsom, SA) Loading second round scores (SA) and seed to the second round scores (SA) and seed to the see

NHL: Buffalo 5 Montreal 2: Detroit 4 Ed-monton 2: Florida 3 Ottawa 1: Pittsburgh 6 Vancouver 5 (of): San Jose 5 St Louis 1: Los Angeles 4 Philadelphia 3.

SNOOKER

name: J Colimaro (Fr) bit 7 Hemman (GB)
7-6.7-5.
DAMS CUP (Institute, Uzb) Assa-Oceania Zone Group One, First round: Singles: O Ogorodnikov (Uzb) br M Khalie
(Pak) 6-3.6-3.6-3.4. Ul Mag Oureshi (Pak)
bit V Museenko (Uzb) 6-1.7-5.6-4. (Scores
level at 1-1).
SYBASE OPEN (San Jose, Ca) Meer's
singias, second round: P Sampras (US)
bit M Rodriguez (Arg) 7-5.6-3. J Gimelstob (US) bit C Waodroruf (US) 6-4.7-6: M
Philippoussis (Aus) bt J Van Lottum
(Neth) 6-2.6-1. M Woodforde (Aus) bt R
Deigado (Par) 6-2.6-3.
ST PETERSBURG OPEN (Rus) Mea's
singias quarver-finatis: M Rosset (Swit)
bit A Pavel (Rom) 6-1.6-2: D Primosi (Ger)
br G Raoux (Fr) 3-6.7-6.6-4.

TODAY'S NUMBER

delayed this week due to freezing weather. With the temperature

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THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Everton redefine art of shirt-pulling

FA Cup final, and if you are Matt Jackson in 1995 better still, because you have just helped make

the winning goal for Everton against Manchester United. So how do you celebrate? Drink yourself into a stupor? Slap Joe Royle on the back and tell him he's got a job for life? Watch the television recording until the tape wears itself out? No. According to Jackson's wife, Julie, you slip on your husband's match shirt, or whatever it is he wears, and

make passionate love to him. "Almost every player went back to the hotel and made love to his wife with her wearing their husband's shirt," Mrs Jackson tells Match of the Doy magazine in their latest issue. "Everyone came downstairs and said to each other: You've just

done it in his shirt, haven't you?" "That's not true," interrupted Matt. "I know Dave Watson and his wife slept with the FA Cup between

It was not disclosed how the match-winner, Paul Rideout, and his wife spent the night, but it was possibly less of a knockout than it was for them in Florida the other day. While there on holiday, Rideout was trying to attain the strict level of fitness required for a return to the Chinese league, when during an early morning run he was struck by

Whatever damage was done to the car, the rugged Rideout required only a precautionary checkup, but when his wife arrived at the hospital and saw him in a wheelchair she promptly fainted. Thankfully, both Rideouts made a quick

a reversing station wagon.

The former holders could do with some of Rideout's knockout quality in front of goal against Coventry today in their fifth-round tie at Goodison. Another former Evertonian, David Burrows, is confident they won't find it. The former Liverpool defender, now with the Sky Blues, spent just six weeks at Goodison, but it was long enough to help him maintain his record of never finishing up on the losing side in a Merseyside derby - 10 games in all ing to them either.

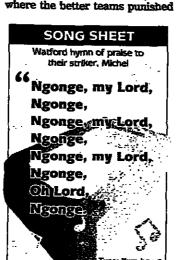
McRae hith

double mist

"We achieved an easy 3-0 win

Howard Wilkinson will have noted how Zone 14 proved to be the undoing

of his England team against France this week. Sports scientists at the Sir John Moores' University in Liverpool recently analysed 24 matches played by the four World Cup semi-finalists as well as 12 games involving sides who failed to qualify for the second round. They divided the pitch into 18 separate zones and came to the conclusion that Zone 14, the area immediately outside the 'D', was



the opposition. "It's the critical area of the pitch for exploitation of any creative action," Tom Reilly, of the University, said, "and the springboard for true penetration of the defensive line." Brazil's Rivaldo, the Bridge. Netherlands' Dennis Bergkamp and Croatia's Zvonomir Boban were picked out as major dangers in that area - with France's Zinedine Zidane the most dangerous of all.

WHILE THE bulldozers are never likely to be waiting at the gates at Old Trafford as they have done at the grounds of failing clubs down the year, it's just pos-

sible that Manchester United's proposed new training ground could multi-million pound development at agreed that the club would not stage Carrington is being built on prime matches on Sundays or Good Friover them in November," he said. "It agricultural land, which means that days. Perhaps they have got special was one of the poorest Everton sides in the event of war it could become dispensation from you-know-who... Government property and used to yes, that's right, Rupert Murdoch.

grow crops. Undeterred, United are ploughing on with their £143m. investment. "We've had conditions placed upon its use which mean we have to be able to turn it to agricultural use within 24 hours," George Johnstone, the club's Group Property manager, said. "The theory is if there was an invasion or an outbreak of war that is what we would have to do. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries insists such conditions are imposed." Well. United always were renowned for their home-grown produce.

GEORGE GRAHAM could have told him so after his experiences with Lucas Radebe, but

Gérard Houllier would

probably have come to the same conclusion as his erstwhile Leeds counterpart - which is that his African is worth all the aggravation. No sooner, it seems, has Rigobert Song arrived at Anfield than the Cameroon defender is off to play in the African Nations' Cup against Mozambique, thereby missing Liverpool's crucial away game against Chelsea on 27 February. The Merseysiders had better get used to the idea because there is going to be more of the same. Song, signed for £2.6m from Serie A strugglers Salernintana, has assured Pierre Lechantre, the new Cameroon national coach, that he will be available for all international matches. "I remain an Indomitable Lion!" the former Metz player proudly declared. Meanwhile, the Liverpool defence faces a mauling at Stamford

FOOTBALL'S PAYMAS-TER, Sky TV, may have carte blanche in deciding when Premiership games should be played but I wonder if they are aware that

their decision to move Aston Villa's home match against West Ham United to Good Friday is in contravention of Villa's articles of association - not that they are likely to care. Apparently, back in 1874, when the club was formed by worshippers of Aston's

AS YOU WERE



THE PRICE IS RIGHT

MANCHESTER UNI-TED, Arsenal and Liverpool last weekbas there ever been an easier treble? Actually, The Sweeper was momentarily worried when the Middlesbrough bus turned up at Anfield. It's FA

from cheering on our portfolio - Ar- by Blackburn. Cagliari, no mugs at Manchester United v Fulham senal (bankers to beat the Blades), home, can hold Lazio to a draw in Draw (£1, 4-1, generally). Tottenham, Leeds, and, err.... Channel 4's game which, while SUNDAY SKY MATCH Huddersfield, Barnsley and Fulham not live, will be shown in full later. Newcastle v Blackburn

- there are some draw bets to be had in tight ties. Spurs can hold Leeds to a draw at Elland Road. Chelsea can draw with Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield may hold Derby to a draw. Fulham are chester United tomorrow while stle may be held to a draw

Draw (£2, 9-4, William Hill, Ladbrokes

LIBERO WAGERS (Four £2 trebles with Stanley): Arsenal to beat Sheff Utd (2-7); Leeds to draw with Tottenham (9-4); Sheff Wed a bit of firm to get a draw with Man- to draw with Chelsea (11-5); Huddersfield to draw with Derby (11-5).

take by enrolling because he somehow can't see himself as a boss in the future? And could that be Chris

Nicholl and Alan Ball (left and right of Keegan), smiling nicely for the camera and thinking "We might

screw up as club managers in the future, but at least we'll never get ourselves into contention for that most poisoned of chalices, the England job"? Er... no. But, it could be the day Wor Kev signed for the Saints.

SUNDAY CA ITALIAN JOB Cagliari v Lazio Draw (£2, 2-1, Coral & William Hill). ORIGINAL BANK: £100. CURRENT KITTY: £146.82!

TODAY'S BETS: £14.17 (including £1.17 tax paid on).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Cyril the Swan. Club: Swansea. Appearance: Bad-tempered.

eight-foot goose who has a penchant for running on to the pitch and upsetting members of the Welsh FA. Crime sheet: Cyril has only

been at the club a matter of months, but already has a list of offences longer than his neck. Abseiling down a floodlight, hissing at a linesman, and attacking people pale into insignificance when you remember the greatest feather in his cap: attracting a disrepute charge from the Welsh FA for staging a swan-man pitch invasion after his side took the lead against West Ham in the FA Cup last month. Cyril is up

In mitigation, Your Honour: Don't the po-faced Welsh FA have more important things to think about than the surreal Cyril? Surely it's better to leave this particular swan vista alone until he gooses a

before the beak (well, the Welsh FA) in the near fu-

referee? Other information: His temperament means he is not always such a nice swan, Cyril. As one club official put it: "He's mad and totally unpredictable. God knows what will happen."

MY TEAM



STEVE RIDER CHARLTON

BBC sports presenter, often at the helm on Grandstand

"I served my time behind goals gnarded with a vary-ing degree of efficiency by the likes of Duff, Wakeham and Rose at nondescript Second Division matches - all of which live in the memory - eventually being rewarded with a battling few years in the First Division in the late 80s, and now in the Premiership. Whatever the outcome of the relegation battle I've had the kind of moment that every football follower from SE7 must dream of - to be able to sit in the Grandstand studio on the afternoon of 22 August and tell an audience of five million that 'by my calculations, Charlton Athletic are top of the Premiership tonight"."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Nationwide League official home page
The highlight of this comprehensive site (which has

news and all the other usual items you'd expect from a sponsor's site) is a map of the country covered in dots. Each dot represents a Nationwide club and just by hovering on the dot you are provided with an instant weather report at the venue, as well as the next fixture and the ground capacity. More com-prehensive club profiles are available, as is a massive database of every player in country. The only fault with the latter is that it does not appear to have been updated since last August.

http://www.football.nationwide.co.uk/default.asp?

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

THE KEVIN KEEGAN postcard (50p) is the only item of manager merchandise available from the Fulham chib shot, despite his messiah status. Perhaps not wanting to tempt fate, the club has no FA Cup merchandise on sale at all. "But all our yellow stuff [the away colours] is 20 per cent off at the moment," a saleswoman said. Presumably that's because The Cottagers are playing away tomorrow and not because the club doesn't sell much and their wares have become discoloured through neglect.

THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legiomaires No 26 HERMANN HREIDARSSON:

The 24-year-old Icelandic international defender played in his home country for IBV, a team based on the small island (pop. 5,000) from which he comes. He was enticed to England by Crystal Palace in the summer of 1997, having been recommended by Bolton's Gudni Bergsson to the then Eagles manager, Steve Coppell. "Hermann is an innocent abroad and long may that continue," Coppell said of his acquisition at the time. The Iceman, as solid and reliable as any Palace defender in recent years, played 30 times for Palace last season and scored twice. By September last year he was no longer an innocent

Division Brentford.

abroad. He'd cottoned on that the prospects at Selhurst Park were not rosy and swiftly moved to Ron Noades' Third



Alien invasion of the Rolex-wearing Bosmanoids

NOW WE are at the stage where never a weekend goes by, for this observer at least, with at least one more foreign journeyman making his debut, it is hard not to conclude that the Bosman ruling was A Very Bad Thing.

At the beginning of the week, English newspapers picked up on Franck Leboeuf's whinging to LEquipe about being "club cretin" at Stamford Bridge. The poor petal is underpaid, he reckons, and should be getting at least as much as Chelsea's other World Cup-winning Frenchman, Marcel Desailly. This point is highly debatable given that he is essentially a reserve centre-back for his country, only playing in the World Cup final thanks to Davor Suker, whose despicable play-acting led to Laurent Blanc's dismissal in the semis. Accomplished though Leboeuf is,

CHRIS MAUME SPORT ON TV



there is always the impression that he thinks he's a better player than he actually is, and his gripes sat oddly with the portrait of him in First Edition's "The Football Foreign Legion" (Cariton, Tuesday). Over film of him shopping with his wife down New Bond Street, he insisted that "I try to have my heart richer than my wallet." No Ferraris for him, he says. "I prefer to buy flats and houses," he says. "It's a better investment."
The prospect of reviewing a Carl-

this one exceeded expectations. I was expecting a blast of Hello!, Leboeuf relaxing in his beautiful home with his beautiful wife. It was fairly toughminded, though, asking whether all these Johnny Foreigners are just over here on Bosman holidays. West Ham was cited as an exam-

ple of how not to import foreign talent. Mind you, the conclusion - that the way to do it is to fork out for the best rather than mooch round the Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard "everything must go" department is blindingly obvious, really. The low point for the club's man-

ager, Harry Redknapp, was the faith ton, his first foreign posting, where he placed in Florin Raducioin, who there is no Jewish community to turned out to be the archetypal Bosman tourist, according Rob Shepherd of the Express: "Five years ago he was queriog up for a loaf of community that most foreigners ply bolstered midfield and defence,

ton documentary is not generally an bread. Suddenly the guy comes over don't have. He's sufficiently at home, occasion for gleeful anticipation, but with a Rolex on his wrist - two on the film's evidence, to indulge in Rolexes he had on the same wrist at a spot of mock road-rage banter with one point"

At the other end of the guest-Israeli, Eyal Berkovic, who, despite having his face famously rearranged by John Hartson's fancy footwork, pitch. He was born on a kibbutz and possessed "not a word of English"

nothing - they speak Cocknik". So he wasn't keen on Southampthere is no Jewish community to film was Crystal Palace's Chinese speak of. The move to London worked though, and he's happy living in Golders Green, a ready-made Zhiyi and Sun Jihai more than sim-

bewildered fellow motorists. So what do incomers have to look

worker continuum is the Hammers' forward to when they get here, apart from foul weather and thousands of pounds a week? The likes of Dennis Wise, that's what, whose idea of a joke has settled down on and off the is teaching the new boys to say "fank you hairy crutch" to waitresses instead of "thank you very much". when he came over - even now, when It's a cheap shot (and an old gag) to observe that his English is worse get together, he says, "I understand than some of his foreign team-mates, but I don't usually let that deter me, and I'm not about to start now.

One fruitful direction taken by the connection – "tactical decision or cunning move?" The signing of Fan

providing an entry into the vast Asian market, with a club shop in Beijing and a television audience of 1.2 billion for a game against Sheffield United described in the Independent at the time as "a tedious encounter

to which (Fan) contributed little." Shepherd, who, you gather, isn't enamoured of the alien invasion, is scathing about Palace's motives. "If they can half-play," he says of the Chinese pair, "they put them in the team." Cynical, but probably spot-on.

The highlight of the week was watching Hermann Maier win the downhill at the skiing World Cham-pionships in Vail (BBC2, Sunday). He Jean-Claude Killy, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Ian Botham, James Bond, Michael Schumacher,

ridge, it's like he's ski-jumping. Gates tend to be flattened. This human avalanche makes skiing compulsive viewing - some achievement.

The highlight of the week wasn't Will Carling's cameo on Norland Nannies, (C4, Thursday) a docusoap series about the school for childminders to the rich and famous. The occasion was polo at Cowdray Park, with the gels given quality time with rich kids and, more importantly, the chance to put down markers with the parents.

Carling and his girlfriend were there with their baby, and one of the young things caught their eye. They'd be getting in touch, they said. Sadly, a couple of weeks later, the relationship was all over, and nur-Indiana Jones and Vinnie Jones, all sie would have to look elsewhere. "Anpacked into one imposing frame. other career wrecked by the When he comes over the top of a tabloids," said the acid voice-over

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Star Burley cannot afford illusions

NOBODY COULD accuse George Burley, the Ipswich manager, of being anything other than a realist

The former Scottish international is under no illusions about the task his team face at Bradford despite the fact that Ipswich have conceded the fewest goals, 11, on their

However Burley does cast an nvious glance towards Paul Jewell's side, who have scored more goals at home, 36, than

any other First Division side. Bradford are doing very well at the moment. They've only been beaten once recently, and they have a very good home record." Burley said.

"They invested heavily in the summer and they certainly seem to be reaping the rewards for it at the moment."

Confidence is high at Valley Parade with the West Yorkshire side in second place, a fact Chris Hutchings, the Bantams No 2, attributes to consistent

"Having a settled side makes one hell of a difference because the players know what to expect from each other and know what each other are doing," he said. 'Ipswich are going well at

the moment and we expect it to e a difficult game, but we ve got nothing to fear from

Sunderland put an end to their three-game losing streak with the 2-0 defeat of Swindon last week but their assistant manager Bob Saxton is wary of more Robins causing any more damage to the Wearsiders' promotion hopes.

The League leaders travel to struggling Bristol City, who took a point from the Stadium of Light earlier in the season. "T saw them play against QPR last week and they did well, they had a good go at them and were un-

NATIONW DE PREVIEW

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

that's the way it is when you're top of the League."

Colin Todd, the Bolton boss. wants his side to maintain their focus when they entertain West Bromwich. A 13-game unbeaten run has seen Wanderers mount a strong challenge on promotion -just one point behind Bradford with a game in hand.

"We've got to keep the bubble going, but once again it will be another difficult game for us," Todd said.

"But if the application and belief is right and if the players work for each other then we should be OK." Stockport's manager, Gary

Megson, is looking for a repeat of last week's 2-0 win at Norwich when his side host Birmingham, but he looks enviously at the finance available to Trevor Francis. "We sat down and worked it out the other day that we paid around £640,000 for 14 players on our team and I'm sure it will be a bit different for Birmingham," he said.

Wolves' Colin Lee saw all his international players return unscathed from midweek duty for their home game against Port Vale, but he was less than impressed with the timing of the friendlies. "It is nice for the lads to play

for their country but you have to look at the situation which occurred at Wembley," Lee said. "I really feel for Arsène Wenger because he's sat watching the match and one minute he sees Lee Dixon carried off on

a stretcher and the next Martin Keown's limping off. "When you have got such an important fixture list coming up, you have to ask yourself, is it really worth it?"

On-loan Damy Murphy goes "Every game is like a cup-tie line-up after rejoining the Railfor us at the moment, because waymen from Liverpool on a everyone wants to beat us, but month's loan.



مكذامن المعلى

Newcastle's Alan Shearer shows his strength before facing Blackburn at St James' Park tomorrow

Kerr warns of Celtic pull-out

pop group Simple Minds, yesterday warned that his consortium could look elsewhere if they fail to gain a controlling interest in Celtic. Kerr, who has teamed up with the former Celtic and Scotland striker Kenny Dalglish, said that the consortium would turn its attention to another chib if the

Celtic owner, Fergus McCann, is

unwilling to do business.

"Dalglish, [businessman Jim] McAvoy and myself are committed to trying to play a part for Celtic," Kerr said. "If it is not to be, I am sure with the investment and ideas and hunger for football at the top level, we will be involved somewhere else. I am sure there will

"Obviously, we want to be at financially." Celtic but we have a project we are committed to and our own frastructure at Celtic was now month contract.

game at the top level on and off the park. We have really, really strong ideas and we would like to see them on display at the club we all have a tremen-

Kerr said he was frustrated that his consortium was unable to present detailed plans once the initial interest became known. He was also critical of the McCann regime's obsession with business-related matters rather than football affairs.

dous affection for."

"I never ever heard any of his plans for football," said Kerz who described the Celtic plc general meetings as "a charade" adding: "You don't need to be a shareholder to be a fan. People aiready invest so much in the club, emotionally and

Kerr reiterated that the in-

sound under McCann's leadership, but the Scottish champions need a new team to take the club into the next millennium.

"We see Celtic as being in a fantastic position to go to the next stage," Kerr told Radio 5 Live. "They are primed and ready with massive support, no debts and a fantastic new stadium, all of which is a result of Fergus McCann. But now, if we are to get to the next stage, we really have to invest."

Hibernian have beat off competition from across Europe to seal the capture of the veteran French international midfielder Franck Sauzée from Montpellier. Sauzée, a Champions' League winner with Marseilles in 1993 - who were later hit by a match-fixing scandal - has agreed to join the Scottish First Franck's name. I was immedithe mark in last week's 3-0 win Division leaders on an 18-

manager for whom virtually everything has gone right in the league this season, secured the services of the 39-times capped Frenchman on a free transfer. Montpellier have agreed to let the 33-year-old join the Easter Road club without a fee, although it is still unclear exactly when Sauzée will make

A delighted McLeish revealed that Sauzée has turned down a host of well-known European clubs including the former Ucfa Cup finalists Rapid Vienna to join Hibs.

his debut as he has now flown

back to France

"As a manager you are always getting faxes and phone calls about available players," McLeish said. "As soon as I saw ately interested as I knew what over Perugia - and they do not a quality player he was."

Coyle believes Cup could go to Motherwell

THE MOTHERWELL striker Owen Coyle vesterday echoed the growing belief that the club can make a successful chal-

Second Division Stirling Albion at home in the fourth round, and look good value for their status as third favourites behind Rangers and Celtic. And after disposing of last year's winners, Hearts, in the previous round. Motherwell's hopes of an extended Cup campaign are high.

"The beauty of the Cup is that it is a fantastic chance for every club to win a trophy regardless of their League position," Coyle said. "I think we have showed on our day that we are a match for anybody. Rangers found that out when they came down here just after Billy [Davies] took over as manager, and we know we are capable of beating any team in the country.'

Stirling's player-manager, John Philliben, and captain, Brian Martin, will be intent on stopping Coyle tomorrow, but the Wells' striker feels last week's League defeat at Dundee will ensure there is no

complacency in the home ranks. "It will be exciting to see so many players coming back to

BY BILL STEWART

lenge for the Scottish Cup.

The Fir Park side today face to our own game and get back to the standards we have set previously," he added.

Livingston's tie with St Johnstone will see a close friendship put to one side for the home manager, Ray Stewart, and the Saints' coach, Billy Kirkwood at least until the following morning

Kirkwood grinned: "Ray is often round for breakfast and takes the place by storm. It's like watching the Tasmanian devil in action - bacon, eggs, the lot, just disappear, "We often meet up for a pint, too, so there has been a lot of banter since the draw."

Stewart said: "There might be an extra edge because I'm pals with Billy. I know whatever happens we will still be mates at the end of it all." Falkirk's proud recent his-

tory in the Cup - finalists and semi-finalists in the last two years - will be tested at Stair Park against Stranraer, while Greenock Morton should secure a quarter-final spot at the expense of Clyde. Rank outsiders Albion Rovers face Ayr the club, but we have got to look United at Somerset Park

Rampant Lazio face tricky Cagliari trip

CAGLIARI, HARDLY the top club in Italy but no pushover at home, will be out to halt Lazio's tremendous run of league form in tomorrow Channel 4 Serie A game, delayed coverage of which will be screened tomorrow afternoon.

Lazio, second to Fiorentina in the table but favourites to lift the Scudetto after recovering from early-season injuries to embark on a nine-match winning run, will be aiming to equal a league record that has stood for nearly 60 years by winning their 10th straight game. Juventus set the mark in the 1931-32 season, and it has been matched only twice since.

Their £31m strike duo, Christian Vieri (six goals in six games since returning from a knee injury) and the Chilean Marcelo "the matador" Salas (11 goals), have been in aweform – they were both on lack support from midfield.

BY IAN DAVIES

Roberto Mancini, the Portuguese Sergio Conceicao and the Czech Pavel Nedved give Rome's big spenders tremendous strength in depth.

However, although only midtable, their hosts, Cagliari, who drew 0-0 at Sampdoria last week, are tough to beat at home. They have won six and drawn two of their 10 homes games this term.

Christian Vieri faces a late test after missing Italy's midweek friendly against Norway. while the Portuguese Fernando Couto is out with a pulled muscle. Cagliari are without their key midfielder Tiziano De Patre, but Gianni Cavezzi returns to take his place.

cenza; Empoli v Salemitana; Milan V Cenza; Empoli v Salemitana; Milan Venezia; Penigia v Internazionale; Pocenz v Juventus; Roma v Sampdora; Udinest v Forcentina, Tomorrow night: Parma v Boloona

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I was shocked with England in the sense that once they went behind they didn't want to fight. That was a surprise because the character of the English person is the British Bulldog.

I was helping my son with his homework when I got phone.

dog.

nal on team-mate Marc Overmars, before his side's win over West Ham.

coach. Andy Robinson, of Bath, after the 35-0 defeat to

age to score all on my own. Anelka, after the West Ham game.

Prison is one place where eels sale from the world. Tom Patti, friend of Mike Tyson, on the boxer's latest gaol sentence.

I would like to take this

wicket with me wherever I Anil Kumble, Indian spinner, on his record-

TODAY

FOOTBALL RYMAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE Premier

RYPHAN POOTBALL LEAGUE Premier Division: Aldershot Tin V Bishop's Stortfort; Biliericay Tin v Gravesend; Boreham Wood v Sutton Utd: Carshalton v Dag & Red; Dulwich v Aljesbury; Enfeld v Bronnley; Harrow Borough v Basingstoke; Hendon v Chesham; Heybridge v Nathon &
Hersham; Slough v Hampton; St Albans
v Purfleet. First Division: Bognor Regis Town v Weading; Brainnee Town v Whyteleafe: Grays Athletic v Leatherhead;
Maldenhead Utd v Hitchin Town: Molesey
v Leyton Pennant; Oxford City v Wealdstone; Rumford v Barrom Rovers; Stalhes
Town v Ubbridge; Wernbley v Berkhamsted
Town: Worthing v Canvey Island. Second
Division: Barstead Athletic v Bedford
Town: Worthing v Canvey Island. Second
Division: Barstead Athletic v Bedford
Town: Barking v Northwood; Bracknell
Town: Wahingdon Town: Edgware Town v
Whindsor & Eton; Hernell Hempstead v Met
Police; Hertford Town v Hingerford Town:
Horsham v Challomi St Peter; Marlow v
Wwenhoe Town: Thame Utd v Leighton
Town: Bootong & Micham v Hungerford Town:
Wolkingham Town: Thame Utd v Leighton
Town: Bootong & Micham v Harlow Town:
Wolkingham Town: Thame Utd v Leighton
Town: Bootong & Micham v Hungerford Town:
Wolkingham Town: Thame Utd v Leighton
Town: Bootong & Micham v Hungerford Town:
Wolkingham Town: Thame Utd v Leighton
Town: Bootong & Micham v Hungerford
Town: Wolkingham Town: Thame
Town: Leves v Tifbury; Southall v
Ware; Wingate & Finchley v Egham Town.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions:
Booton Utd; Grantham v Gloucester Clty;
Gresley Rowers v Hastongs; Halesowen v
Rothwell Town: Utdston Tin v Dorchester;
King's Lynn v Worcester City, Nuneauton v
Cambridge City, Sallsbury v Merthyr;
Waymouth v Barworth, Midsand Divisione
Worth Booton Utd; Grantham v Gloucester
Town: Baldock Town: Sallsburg v Merthyr;
Waymouth v Barworth, Midsand Divisione
Bloowich Town: V Redworth Utd; Cinderford Town v Blaicenall; Hinckley Utd v Wesouthers Divisione: Ashford Town: Cordviet Condon v Enric & Benveler; Miray
Southern: Divisione: Ashford T FR CARLING PREMIERSHIP NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FURST DIVISION 8 Rolton v West Brom 10 Bristol City v Sunderland..... 11 Crystal Palace v Crewe Wolverhampton v Port Vale... Oxford Utd v Swindon 19 Macclesfield v Oldham 20 Northempton v Gillinghan 21 Notts County v Blackpool

23 York v Walsall THIRD DIVISION TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH ROUND

 Ayr v Atsion
 Celtic v Dunfermline
 Morton v Clyde
 Mongston v St Johnstone
 Mocherwell v Sciring
 Stransaer v Falkirk vant & Waterloonlie.

ARNOTT INSUITANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Synthonia v Newcastle Blue Star, Chester Le
Screet v Marske Und; Crook Town v
Bedlington Terniers; Dunston Federation
v Gusborough Town; Easington v Scotron; Jarrow Roofing v Morpeth Town; Penmit v South Shields; Shidlon v Seaham Red
Star Tow Law Town v Consett; West Auch
land v Billingham Town. SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION SECOND DIVISION

34 For lar v East File

35 Inverness Col. v Queen of South

THIRD DIVISION

36 Cowdenbeath v Berwick 37 Stenhousemuk v Montrose - Brechin v Dumbarton - Queen's Park v Ross County WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Pre-NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE IMMISTONI EAD KENT LEAGUE Premaler Division: Beckenham Town v Tunbridge Wells; Chatham Town v Whitstable
Town: Cray Wanderers v Hythe Utot;
Crockenhall v Sheppey Utot; Erah Town v
Canterbury Giy, Faversham Town v Ramagate; Herne Bay v VCD Athetic; Slade
Green v Deal Town: Thamesmead Town v
Greenwich Borough.

MORTH MESTIERN TRAINS LEAGUE
First Division: Atherton Collecte v

46 Stevenage v Kingstonian 47 Woking v Leek Town UNIBORD LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION HORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Colleries v Mossicy, Boote v Glossop North End: Nde-grove Athletic v Salford City, Leek CSOB v Rossendale Utd; Maitre Road v Holker Old Boys; Nahlwrich Town v Newcastle Town; Ramsbottom Utd v Skeimersdale Utd; Vaushall G M v Atherton L R; Work-ington v Prescot Cables. League Ctp Third rounds St Helens Town v Citherce. PREMIER DIVISION

48 Accrington Stanley v Worksop

49 Altrincham v Winsford Utd

- Barnber Bindge v Guiseley

- Brishop Auckland v Marine

- Emley v Gareshead

- Frickley v Lancaster

- Gainsborough v Leigh RMI Frickley v Lancaster
 Gainsborough v Leigh RMI
 Hyde Utd v Chorley
 Runcorn v Staybridge
 Spennymoor v Blyth Spartans
 Whithy Town v Colwyn Bay
Riss Divisions Beiper Town v Whitley Bay
Burscough v Albeton Town: Congleton
Town v Trafford: Droylstien v Netherfield
Kendal: Eastwood Town v Bradford PA; UNILSPORT UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bosrne v
Wellingborough: Desborough v Potton;
Kempston v Cogenhoe; Long Buckty v
Boston; St Neots v Holbesch; S & L Corbv v Eynesbury; Stotfold v N Spencer; Yax-

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Armthorpe Welfare v

Ossett Town; Arnold Town v Thackley; Den-aby United v Sheffield; Eccleshill Utd v Staveley MW; Garforth Town v Pickering Town: Liversedge v Glasshoughton Wel-fare; Ossett Ablon v Brigg Town; Ponte-fract. Cols v Maltby MW; Selby Town v Burton.
UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE

Bridgewater Royals Bristol Manor Farm v Odd Down; Chippenham Town v Taunton Town; Keynsham Town v Elmore; Melksham Town v Backwell Utd; Paulton Rovers v Twerton Town; Westbury Utd v Bridport. SMBRNOFF BRISH LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Ballymena v Linfield: Cliftonville v Glenavon; Crusaders v Coleraine; Glen-

Man Utd

Chelsea

Arsemi

Liverpool

Derby

Leeds

West Ham

1 Thitesham

12 Rewcastle

13 Lekaster

14 Shelf Wed

15 Blackberry

16 Coventry

17 Everton

18 Charlton

toran v Omagh Town; Portadown v Newry, First Division: Ards v Bangor; Ballyclare v Larne; v Distillery; Dungannon Swifts v Limavady Utd. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND

PRESS of JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckle Thistle v Brora Rangers; Cove Rangers v Chachnacuddin; Deveronale v Rothes; Eign City v Narm County, Forres Mechanics v Wilck Academy; Fort William v Huntly. Keith v Losslemouth; Fraserburgh v Peterhead. LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Afan Lido

[2.30].
WELSH CUP Fourth round (2.30): Ammanford Town v Colwyn Bay YMCA: Barry Town v Cornah's Quay: Carmarthen Town v Caemarfon Town: Convy United v BP Liandarcy; Inter Cable-Tel v Pontardawe Town; Lianelli v Cwmbran; Port Talbot v Flint Town: TNS v Rhayader Town. RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth round: Featherstone Llons v Halifax (1.0) (of Feotherstone Rovers): Leigh M R v Hull K R (3.0) (or Leigh): Salford v Sheffield (3.0).

2.30 unless stated ALLIED DUMBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE

PREMIERS SHIP ONE
Bedford v Wasps (3.0)
Gloucester v Hartequirs (3.0)
Lescester v London Irish (2.0)
Lendon Scottish v Newcastle (3.0)
PREMIERSHIP TWO: Bristol v Leeds
(3.0): Coventry v Blackheath (3.0): Moseley v Rugby (3.0); Rotherham v Orneti
(2.15): Wakefield v London Weish: Waserloo
v Exeter (2.15): Worcester v Fylde.
JEWISON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Henley v Notchigharn: Lydney v What clade (3.0);
Morley v Manchester (3.0); Nevbury v Camberley (3.0): Octev Harrogate (2.15); Reading v Liverpool St Helens. Rossin Park v
Birmingham/Sollhull. Two Norths: Hinckley

v Kendal; New Brighton v Sheffield: Nuneaton v Winnington Park: Presson Grasshopper's v Sedgley Park (3 0). Sandal v Walsab (2.15); Stoutbridge v Aspatria: Whitchurch v Lichfield. Two South: Bark-ing v Plymouth; Bridgwater v Weston-super-Mare (3.0); Clirton v Bradwell: Esher v Cheltenham (3 0), Havant v North Walsham; Mer Police v Redruth (3.0); Tabard v Nor-wich (2.15).

wich (2.15).

SMALEC CUP Pifels round: Cwmilyn/ell v
Pontypridd; Lisnell v Ynysybwl; Nantymoel
v Bridgend.

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Ofvisions: Neath v Aberavon Pirst Divisions
Aberdilery v UMIC (or Corolff Inst): Dumant
v Rummey, Maesseg v Cross Keys: Newtoridge
v Merthyr: Pontypool v Landovery; Tandu v
Bonymaen: Tredegar v Blackwood; Treorchy
v South Wales Police.

AMG OWNELSH PRIENDLIES ANGLOWELSH FRIENDLIES

Bath v Cardiff (3.0) .

Swansea v Northampton
TERMENT'S VELVET (UP Ossarter-Rnais: Kelvo Preston Lodge (3.0); Melrose
v Kilmamoch (3.0); Stewartry v Gala (3.0);
Pifth round: Hawkick v Boroughvair (3.0);
Bomf Ossarter-Realis: Corstorphine v Cumbernauld (3.0); Duns v Madras Coll FP;
(3.0); Edinburgh Univ v Strathendrick (3.0);
Gamock v Hillfoots (3.0); Shield Ossarterfinais: Annan v led-fronts (3.0); Gortonians
v Hawkick Linden (3.0); Selbrik v Berwick (3.0);
St Boswells v String County (3.0)
TENNENT'S VELIVET PROBREMENSHIP First
Divisions Dunder HSFP v Virtically (3.0).
Third Division: Gienrothes v Stewarts Mel
FP (3.0).
ABB LEAGUE First Division: Ballymena v

FP (3.0).

ABI LEASUE First Division: Ballymena v Buczaneers: Blackrock College v Woung Munster; Galweglans v Clortarf, Garryowen v Larschowne: Sr. Marys v Sharnon: Terenare v Cork Constitution, Second Division: Dolphin v Sundar's Welf Greystones v DLSP, Malone v Portadown, Old Behedere v Ballymahinch; Old Crescent v Dungarison; Old Westey v Derry; Sherries v Bective Rangers: Wanderers v UCC.

CLUB MATCH: Oxford Univ v Imperial Medics.

ENL PREMIER: Bournville v Brooklands (2.30); Cannock v Beeston (1.0), Gulidioro v Southgate (12.30); Chi Loughtonians v Essi Grinstead (2.0); Reading v Hounslow (2.0); Teddington v Canterbury (2.0). SOUTH PREMIERS Anchorians v Wolding, Beckenham v Tumbridge Weils: City of Portsmouth v Old Cranleighans: Foreiam v Wimbledon, Gore Court v High Wycombe: Herne Bay v Chichester, Maidenhead v Old Whitgiffians: Purley Walcountlars v Wok-ingham; Richmond v Blackheath; Winches-ter v Bournemouth. DTZ_MIDLAND_PREMIERS: Coventry &

NORTH PREMUER: Bowdon v Neston: Chester v Warrington: Harrogate v Formby, Norton v Ben Rhydding: Roterham v Southport: Sheffield Banters v Durham Unix

Veroll & Sherborne v Glourester City
WOMEN'S EM. PRESMERT. Hightown v
Fiftes Lekester (12.0); Issaukis v Olton Startish Life (12.0): Slough v Olton Terraquest
(12.0). Sutton Coldified v Domaster (11.30)
First Diffusion: Bradford v Cheimsford Highway (12.0); Canterbury v Aldridge (12.0); Loughtorough Students v Torjans (2.30); Wanbledon v Sunderland Asthonole (12.0). Second Diffusion: Bracking! v Eating (2.0);
Poyuton v Hampton-In-Arden (12.1); Sherwood v St. Albans (12.0); Wokung v Old
Loughtorough Students Presmuent Crimson
Ramblers v Loughborough Students, Rettering v Olton & West Warnwick: Lutron v Belper;
North Staffs v Bedford.

WOOMEN'S MORTH PROST DIVISIONS Black-burn v Chester: Don Valley v Leyland Motors: Sheffield v Liverpool; Wilmington Park v Dee-side Ramblers. WOMEN'S EAST PREMIER: Ashford v Cambridge Clip; Bury St Edmunds v (psinich; Letchworth v Blueharts; Sevendalis v Dere-

WOMEN'S WEST PREMIER: Bournemouth v Cheltenham: Evener v Portishead Fire-brands: Leominister v Recland, Sr Austelf v Colwalt: Tourton Vale v Exmouth. Colvadi; Taunton Vale v Evmouth.

WOOSEN'S SOUTH PIRST DIMESION: City
of Portsmouth v West Witney; Hendon v Talse
Hall: Horsham v Rover Cowley, Reading v
Southampton; Winchester v Maldenhead.

WOWER'S TRYSPORTS TRUBBE COUNTIES
PIRST DIVISION: Henley v Brackert, Mitton
Reynes v Oxford Howles: Newbury v Wycombe
Rye: Rover Cowley v City of Oxford; Sonning
v Phoenti-Ranelagit; West Witney v Reading;
Windsor v Farmham Common; Wollingham v
Oxford Univ.

WOMEN'S MEDIAND BANK WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Athletic v Penarth: Chartaine v Colwyn Bay, Newport v Swansea: LIWIC v Newtonia

BLIDMREISER LEAGUE: Derby v Edinburgh (7.30); Lekester v Greater London (7.30), Lon-don v Birmingham (5.30); Tharnes Valley v Sheffield (8.0); Worthing v Manchester (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY SENONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Nottingham Panthers v Bracknetl Bees (7 0); Sheffield Steel-ers v London Knights (7.0); Manchester ers v London Knights (7.0); M. Storm v Ayr Scoresh Eagles (7.0)

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: BUPA Indoor meeting (or No-bonal Indoor Arena, Birmingham).
BORING: World Booking Organisation se-par-middlesseight site of Jazzapie (Lardiff, holder) v R Reid (Runcom), World Booking Carnali super-middlesseight this R Wood-half (Telford) v V Nardiello (t.); WIBO housy-malghet title: H Hide (Norwich) v O Norris (US) (or Televiest Arena, Newcaste). SHOONER: Benson and Hedges Masters (or Wentberg) TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND an Utd v Fulham (2 0)............ www.aastle v Blackburn (4 0) TENNENTS SCOTTISK CUP FOURTH ROUND
Hamilton v Rangers (6.05)
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE SELK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth research Barrow v Leigh (2 0); Brodford v Workington (12 0); Castreford v Hull (3 0); Huddersheid v Swinton (3.0); Hunslet v St Helens (3 0); Leeds v Wigan (2 0), London v Doncaster [2 15); Rochdale v Verk (3 0); Wormagton v Featherstone (3 0); Whitehaven v Lancashire Lynx (3 0); Widnes v Keighley (3 0).

RUGBY UNION

HOCKEY

EHL PREMERS: Beeston v Bourmille (2-0), Brooklands v Cannot (2-0); Canterbury v Okd Loughtonians (2-0), Hourslow v Galdiord (2-0); Southepte v East Grintered (2-0), Heddington v Reading (2-0); Finst Dhistiens: Eastcute v Haward (1-0); Full v Harleston Magpies (2-0); Indian Gymishana v Loughborough Students (2-0); East v Ordord Hambs (2-0); Leves v Barford Tigers (1-30); Schansty of Arrons v Onford Hink (2-0); Sherifeld v Docaster (2-30); Srourport v Chelmsford (2-0); Surbition v Hampstead & Westmanster (2-30); Surbition of Hampstead & Westmanster (2-30); Surbition of Hampstead & Westmanster (2-30); Surbition of Hampstead & Westmanster (2-30); Surbition of Hampstead (1-30); Edition Scottsh Life v Ipsnach (1-10); Elling v Sough (1-30), Hepticana v Basel (1-10); Wolking v Bradford (10-30); Wolking v Bradfo HOCKEY

BASKETBALL BUDDIESER LEAGUE: Chester v Worthing (5 30); Edinburgh v Mikton Keynes (5 0), Man-chester v Lekester (7 10)

ICE HOCKEY SENDRIDA SUPERILEAGUE: Ayr Scottish cages v London Knights (6.30), Brazianet Bees, v Sheffield Steelers (6.0): Cardiff Dewis v Not-ingham Panthers (6.0).

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: BUPA Indoor Grand Prix (at No-bonal Indoor Arena, Birmingham), SWIMMING: World Cup event (at Glasgow)

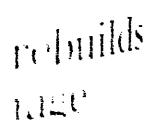
> THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS

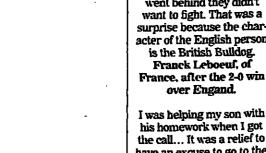
Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated
Bo Hamsen (forward) Brondby (Den) to Bolton (£1m): Leavy Johanose (midfielder) Bury to Burnley (£225,000); John Barnes (forward) Newcastle to Charlton Athletic, Tim Breacker (defender) West Ham to OPR; Franck Samzée (midfielder) Montpellier to Hiptermion; Lawrence Baules (forward) Bradford City to Brighton.

LOANS/TRIALS

Alex Notman (forward) Manchester Utd to Aberdeen; Daning Misrphy (midfielder) Use-erpool to Grewe Alexandra, Manc Auchesty (midfielder) Celtic to Clydebank; Daniel Elinitial de la constant de la constan







the call... It was a relief to have an excuse to go to the Lee Dixon on his England саП-пр.

Does that mean you can't play for Arsenal any more? Divia Dixon, 9. to father Lee on hearing of his international recall.

Marc plays only for himself. He makes me run like a Nicolas Anelka, of Arse-

I am embarrassed to be

Once again, I had to man-

equalling haul of 10 wickets in an innings, for India against Pakistan.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK

BUNGET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First Division: Eastbourne Town v horsham VMAC; Hassocks v Chichester City;
Langney Sports v Redhill: Littlehampton
Town v Broadbridge Heath; Portheld v Hallsham Town; Salidean Uct v Pagham; Sesey
v Ringmer; Shoreham v Whitehawk, John
O'Hara Laague Cip bildir downd: Crawley Down Village v Eastbourne Utd;
Newhaten v Wick, Fourth-round replay:
East Preston v Burgess Hill Town.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Division: BAT v. Lymington & New Milton;
Bournemouth v Afc Totton; Chrischurch
v Bernerton Heath Hart: Cowes Sports v
Brockenhurst; East Cowes Vics v
Portsmouth RN: Eastleigh v Downton;
Fareham Town v Wanthorne Town; Gosport
Borough v Whitchurch Utd; Hamble ASSC
v Afc Newbury; Thatcham Town v Money
Fields.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premise Divisions: Bury Town vi Harwitch & Parke-ston: Ely Ciry v Sudbury Wanderers; Fak-enham Town v Woodbridge Town: Felistowe Port & Town v Histon: Lowestoft Town v Newmarket Town: Maldon Town v Diss Town; Sudbury Town v Great Yarmouth Town: Warboys v Halstead Town; Warbor Utd v Soham Town Rangers: Wrotham v Gorleston.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pressier Division: Barnstaple Town v Cahe Town; Bideford v Bishop Sutton; Brisington v Bridgewater Town; Bristol Manor Farm v

			F	A	C F	\ R	Ш	N G	P	RΙ	W	H	R	SHIP	
_	Home Away 5-game form														
	PI	Pts	Œ	W	Đ	L	F.	A	w	D	L	F	A	Most retenat on right	t Upcoming matches
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FA Cup fifth round: Huddersfield's stylish left-winger has no regrets about leaving his many friends at Old Trafford

Thornley intent on going forward

through Ben Thornley's eyes, two things ought to deserve a right good kicking. Fate, for one, which landed him with a career threatening injury, and the will-o'-the-wisp

But for the shadowy former and clusive latter Thornley mould probably still be playing in the EA Cup fifth round this weekend, but in the red shirt of Mattehester United tomorrow rather than the blue and white stripes of Huddersfield against i erby today.

The 25-year-old was one of the brightest of Alex Ferguson's tioughings, a quick, skilful leftwinger with the broad frame ful machine gun rapidity and in that will the strongest of irony. an accent revealing his Salford initially suggested resistance to

He played in the 1992 and 1990 Youth Cup final teams tone win, one defeat) alongside Giggs. David Beckham, Nicky have to go forward."

LIFE BY GUY HODGSON

Butt, Gary Neville, Paul Scholes, Keith Gillespie and Robbie Savage and made his first team debut as an 18-yearold in 1994.

Then came a cruciate liga-Frame of Hean Giggs the other. ment injury and a spiralling and depressing descent, from the likelihood that he would be as regular as you can be in a team that has Giggs' talent to call upon to the realisation that he would have to go elsewhere to get regular football. In some it is a tale that would provoke darker feelings, but if Thornley is bitter he disguises it well.

"Of course I look back and think if only," he said with cheerroots. "People said Nicky Butt and myself were at the head of the queue and Alex Ferguson told me he thought I'd make it but you can't live in the past. You

Thornley did that by leaving and his enthusiasm on the United. I had to ask myself. Do touchline is there for everyone touchline is there for everyone to see. Also, it was a plus that I want to continue playing in the reserves with a bit part in the I knew a lot of the lads. They first team or do I want to get helped me settle in. away and play 40 or 50 games club, but you can see it's going a season in front of big crowds?' It didn't even have to go to a places if we have the right toss of a coin. It was the more playing staff and if we've got the

sensible option and it's proved

the more fruitful."

Ferguson did not want to release his recuperating winger - he played him against Arsenal and Liverpool in last season's run-in - but a man who has let his own son, Darren, leave Old Trafford was not likely to deny a chance to others and as Thornley had been on loan to Huddersfield in 1996 it was the McAlpine Stadium he chose when Peter Jackson

came knocking last summer. "When I met the manager I I keep in touch. Any of the lads could see he had blue and I grew up with, Scholesy, Nicky Butt, I'd gladly spend the night white blood flowing through his body," Thornley said. "He's a young guy who loves the club

talking away old times." The Ryan of above is, of course, Giggs and it is one of the great paradoxes in Thornley's life that he weighed up the wealth of young central midfield talent at Old Trafford in the late Eighties and quickly switched to the flank which put him in direct competition with the most natural talent in the land.

McAlpine to watch him play.

chairs helping us out."

Only Giggs' versatility allowed Thornley to play in the winning 1992 Youth Cup final team and such was the talent at Old Trafford in those days it was still at the expense of a current Welsh international. "Giggsy played up front, leaving me to my own devices on the left," Thornley said.

"I was worried I'd miss out because Ryan only played in the two legs of the final and one match in the semis, but Robbie Savage was the one who had to drop out. I felt for him, it must have been very hard. Hearthreaking.

Surely, putting friendship aside, there must have been times when he hated the sight of the young Welshman casting spells on his own left-wing territory? "Not at all," he replied with a laugh. "Better players than me are going to play second fiddle to Gig

"On his day, and the prime example was the 3-2 win over Juventus last season, he's the best around. Believe it or not he'd not trained for two and half weeks before that game and he was out of this world.

"T've never got sick of him. I love him to pieces. I've known him for 11 years and he's a great lad. He's never let any of the fame go to his head. He's feels more positive newsprint careful how he conducts himself off the pitch and he's a credit to Manchester United. I hope they keep him there for as body. I really think we've got for the Sunderland and Bradlong as possible because he'll as good a chance as we'll ever ford games it'll be a superb



Ben Thornley, the former Manchester United youngster, now plying his trade at Huddersfield

Amenal #

Parifield United

Of the others. Ben Thornley (transferred to Huddersfield). Chris Casper (Reading), Kevin Pilkington (Port Vale), John Paul Scholes and Phil Neville, O'Kane (Everton), Simon Davies (Luton) and Colin Mckee (Kilmarnock) made it to

Manchester United's 1992 youth team, Back row (left to right); Raphael Burke.

Cary Neville, Simon Davis, John O'Kane, Andy Noone, Nicky Butt, Ben Thernley. Front row: Robbie Savage, David Beckham, George Switzer, Keith

Normally a youth side will George Switzer who was given yield one first-team player, two in 1992 rumours were circu- if the club is lucky but of the XI the end of the 1992-3 season lading in football that this was who started for United on May and is now playing in noneron to compare with the 15 1992, four became England internationals - Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Gary Neville and Nicky Butt - while the two substitutes, Keith Gillespie (now Blackburn) and Robbie Savage (Leicester), have been

> capped by Northern Ireland and Wales respectively.

a free transfer to Darlington at chester area, was never picked by Alex Ferguson. Two other members of the youth team squad, Raphael Burke and Andy Noone, were released.

Manchester Evening News

Virtually all the team of '92 were eligible for the Youth Cup the following year and, surprisingly, they failed to win it even though another two future England internationals, played in the final, Leeds won 4-1 on aggregate before crowds of 30,562 at Old Trafthe first team and only fullback ford and 31,037 at Elland Road.

The "I hate Giggsy" headlines can be safely binned then, and anyway Thornley will come of today's tie at home to Premiership Derby County. "I've said this to every-

win them things season after have of getting through to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup,"

he said. "You couldn't get a phone call through to this place last week, the demand for tickets was so great and if we can get the stadium to the point where we are pushing 20,000 like we did

atmosphere, intimidating even feel I'm fitter than I've ever for a team of Derby's quality. If we can just get a lucky break..."

Thornley is owed a break of the lucky sort himself as even now he is just playing after a three-month lay-off. "I played 21 consecutive games at the start of the season and, all right, I had as couple of bad ones, but most of them I was quite healthy. I feel, owes Ben Thornley.

been. I need a few games to recapture everything but I feel as good as ever I did."

For a young player who had snatched from him, a few seasons free to put his cares and past doubts behind him is the least the deserves. Fate, you

Leary confronts his mentor A frustrating mixture

WHILE RECENT events have under managers, the FA Cupto a me of the players, from to the course polices and can- in a low ho enliven the nario or mais to the Reberto Di the trade dealer

Cillespie, Paul Scholes, Chris Casper

EVEN BEFORE Manchester

United won the FA Youth Cup

Bu la Babes, who won the

United's first team had just

been pipped of the title by

Leeds making it 25 seasons of

socrow since the champi-

eaship had been won and it

was in search of consolation

that 14.031 went to Old Trafford

to watch the second leg of the

They got it via a 3-2 victory

ned on aggregate) and with it

on awitation to the birth of

greatness. The Class of 92 was

rinal against Crystal Palace.

first competition in 1953.

Shis workend is different. In Madelia der Jomorrow and have only the cameras will is tremed on the dug-out in with a often as the pitch. of habited Blood, George Graht mand David O'Leary will be a consisting six years after the strong the FA Cup as manhave respectively for . Ltd. P.C. Climbara mayed across nunh London to Tottenham Im London via Loods where foliated to building on his and the man in this issues as work, now and one of the most exciting warry feature in the country. To high they take a Spurs side who have become as difficult to exist as they are to water. On the airs, two occasions these thans are in the Cup the victors (Leeds in 1972, Spurs a decade latery, went on to win it. it teald happen again.

Denorrow the attention, ina hading that of the Football Assegution, moves to Old Trafford. where the preferred candidates ior the post of England coach v.19 be in opposition. Alex Fergrean new seems to be out of the numbers but the FA have not gayar ng un Kevin Keegan and neight be hoping for a home win. The motels was already inthinking. It should be no contest behaviour and bring a yellow

€.

400 000

BY GLENN MOORE

but Fulham, one of two teams left in the competition whose name is not engraved on the Cup. have beaten Southampton and Aston Villa. They lead the Second Division and, having spent more than £10m on players, have a pedigree way above their status.

For Kit Symons, their former Manchester City defender, it will be a chance to put right an injustice from 1996 when City, then still in the Premiership, were knocked out of the Cup at this stage by United through an extremely dubious penalty. United went on to win the trophy.

It will be a day of mixed memories for Andy Cole. Under Keegan he established his reputation with Newcastle but, earlier in his career, he had an

FIFA WILL address a proposal

to punish play-acting anywhere

on the field with a yellow card

when it meets next week, world

football's governing body said

on the agenda when the Inter-

national Board meets 20 Feb

Fifa's resolve to keep the field

free of advertising and to crack

down on cheating," Fifa said in

Faking injuries on the field

would be deemed unsporting

Virtual publicity will also be

These initiatives reflect

vesterday.

near Cardiff.

Fulham, scoring four times in 15 games. "I had a terrible time," he said. "I couldn't put the ball in the net no matter what I did." At Highbury today Sheffield

United are hoping to repeat their shock defeat of Arsenal in the Cup three years ago. since when the Gunners have lost once in 14 FA Cup ties. Bizarrely, the holders have not won a tie at Highbury for six years. United, who reached the semi-final last year, will be backed by 5.300 travelling fans, most bearing balloons provided by the club's board of directors - an appropriate gift, given the amount of

hot air in most boardrooms. Arsenal will be without the suspended Emmanuel Petit plus Lee Dixon, Martin Keown, and Tony Adams, all of whom were injured during Wednesday's international between

Play-acting on Fifa agenda

discuss a possible experiment

introduction of "goal-line tech-

nology" and extending the re-

sponsibilities of the fourth

sign the Sheffield Wednesday

central defender, Jon New-

some, for a fee of about £1.6m

as a replacement for their cap-

tain, Gary Ablett, who will be

out of action until Christmas

with a knee ligament injury. Leicester City Council plan-

Birmingham are hoping to

featured seven of their players. in 1951 and 1958. Their attack Bergkamp, having been involved in internationals elsewhere in Europe, the Gunners could be leg-weary. They may also have an eye on next week's critical trip to Old Trafford.

At the McAlpine Stadium Derby, having won at Plymouth and Swansea, have to negotiate another potential banana skin in Huddersfield. Surprisingly the two sides have never met in the FA Cup; less unexpectedly their solitary triumphs date back to 1922 and 1946 respectively.

If the giantkilling attempts fail, at least one non-Premiership side will be in the sixth round: the winner of Barnsley's tie with Bristol Rovers. Second Division Rovers, the only team left in the competition not to have played in a final, have only unhappy loan period with England and France, which reached the sixth round twice,

mended that Leicester's plans

stadium at Bede Island South

Chelsea are to take the top

10in to 12in off the Stamford

Bridge pitch immediately after

the game against Blackburn next Wednesday in an attempt

to solve the problem of water re-

tention on the field, which has

caused the pitch to be "sticky"

underfoot. Chelsea players have

complained that the surface is

tains retail outlets.

With others, including Dennis will be led by Jason Roberts, the competition's equal leading scorer with six goals and a nephew of Cyrille Regis. Barnsley, who knocked out Manchester United at this

stage last season, will fancy their chances against a Rovers side which does not travel well and reached this stage by beating three Third Division clubs and a non-league side. Besides the tie at Leeds there are three other all-Premiership matches. At Hills-

borough, current form suggests the one Italian of Sheffield Wednesday, Benito Carbone, could upset Chelsea's trio, especially if the Blues also suffer a hangover from midweek international action. At Goodison Everton seek

their fifth home goal of the season against a Coventry side who tend to do well against them.

Tomorrow at Ewood Park, Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United renew acquaintance. They already met in the Worthington Cup this season, Blackburn winning on penalties, and the match should feature a quartet of players who have traded places - Alan Shearer and Shay Given of Newcastle, and Darren Peacock and Keith Gillespie of Rovers.

The two sides have something else in common too, an FA Cup history of faded grandeur. Each have won six times but Newcastle have not done so since 1955 while Blackburn have to look back to 1928. Both will be dreaming this morning inhibiting their ability to pass but one, at least, will have to the ball smartly on the ground. wait a little longer.

of despair and elation

WHEN PAOLO Di Canio signed for West Ham, all those years of loyal support had been rewarded. The time had come to break out the bubbly. Harry Redknapp had gone Italian. Our childhood dreams had come true. Yeah, right. I first started supporting

the Hammers when football programmes were 10p and Boney M were cultural icons. Supporting them - like loving dodgy bands - is a way of life, an emotional attachment. Suffering, elation, despair and pessimism are part of East End vocabulary, and if trophies rewarded perennial underachievement then there's little we wouldn't have won.

Still, the attachment is genetic - my uncle and grandfather had been masochists before me - and despite the fact that the Boleyn Ground terraces were like cold graveyards or amusement arcades. there were morsels of comfort. A 2-0 defeat by Orient on Boxing Day always seemed to be followed up by a 1-0 cup victory against Aston Villa. That's the way it was in those days.

The departure of Ron Greenwood as manager in 1977 threatened years of barrenness and mediocrity. The following season we were relegated to the old Second Division and I was heartbroken. I was in tears for days. I wrote a jazz song called "The dog's dead, my woman's gone and the house is falling down, but FAN'S EYE VIEW

WEST HAM BY JOE MORRIS

I didn't care until this happened." I didn't actually, but you can see my point. After 20 or so glorious years as top dogs in the East End, relegation was unthinkable. Ahead lay months visiting footling hotbeds like Grimsby, Bristol Rovers and Watford And to think, this was club who had provided the backbone of Eng-

land's 1966 World Cup team. Strangely, my best memories can be still traced to those halcyon days of the late Seventies. Alan Devonshire, that darting and dashing mid fielder who ran and ran. And then ran some more. Now there was a player. And Frank Lampard, an overlapping full-back with thighs like tree trunks. Not that I looked at his thighs a lot, but you notice these things. And Tony Cottee and Frank McAvennie, and, and... and then there was Trevor.

Oh, Trevor. Idolised and drooked over as if he were a Bay City Roller. All pin-stripe elegance and gentility. Trevor was everything I looked for in a sportsman. You wouldn't find Trevor pushing a referee with

He shaped our world, he was the centre of our universe.

In that 1980 FA Cup final victory against Arsenal, we the unfancied Second Division boys, beat the mighty Arsenal The proletariat had got one over the bourgeoisie. Brooking's headed Cup final winner was happiness incarnate on a hot May afternoon. I felt as though I'd just listened to a heavenly piece of jazz, climbed a mountain and run a marathon. It was drama, theatre and sheer poetry.

Another memorable moment was a match against Ipswich It was the season we finished in our highest position (third). With Liverpool and Everton also in the running, we finished that last game with a 2-1 victory over the Suffolk country bumpkins. There was sheer jubilation. Supporters flooded onto the pitch, breaking through the barriers and running straight for the centre circle. We might have finished below two others, but when the manager, John Lyall, and players gathered in the directors' box, you'd have thought West

Ham were world champions. So what does the future hold? Is the future at Upton Park all about Di Canio, Marc-Vivien Foe, Eyal Berkovic or even the return of Marco Boogers from his caravan in the Netherlands? I suppose it is, and we'll get to used to it. Any old Iron and all that.

3

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card under the proposal being ning officers have recom-

with using two referees, the be turned down because it con-

The board meeting will also to move into a 40,000 all-seater

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Guide to the FA Cup and Premiership



MATCH OF THE WEEKEND (FA CUP FIFTH ROUND, SUNDAY 2.0

Manchester United v Fulham



ALEX FERGUSON could deploy Ole Gunnar By NICK HARRIS Solskjaer, Andy Cole (left) and Dwight Yorke in a three-pronged attack tomorrow as his Premiership leaders take on Kevin Keegan's Second Division pace-setters.

Although Ferguson may choose to use all three front men at the same - following their eight-goal haul last week against Nottingham Forest - Fulham's goalkeeper, Maik Taylor, maintains that he does not feel like a condemned man who is about to be had for a late breakfast. "Those guys are on fire at the moment," said Taylor.

best around and between the three of them,

we're not going to be frightened off by that. I'm just going to try to play my normal game and enjoy the whole day."
Yorke, Cole and Solskjaer have netted 53

goals between them this season, and it will be Taylor who will stand as the last line in the Cottagers' defence and try to stop them adding to that tally. Ferguson has hinted he will play Solskjaer, who despite his bit-part in the memory banks," said the 27-year-old role this season has scored 15 goals, but United will be without the suspended Roy Keane in front of 56,000 people. We lost to a late goal ed will be without the suspended Roy Keane "The goals tally tells you that they are the and Paul Scholes. "So they're putting out a from Eric Cantona and although the result best around and between the three of them, they have by far scored the most goals in the Premiership. But they don't scare us, and the incredible strength in depth they've got?"

at Old Trafford. The Northern Ireland B international kept goal at the Theatre of Dreams two years ago during his brief stint in the Premiership with Southampton. He performed well that day and made a fine save from Eric Cantona before the Frenchman .

beat him to secure a 2-1 win for United. "That's a game which is definitely lodged went against us, it was still a wonderful experience. I'm really looking forward to going back because for me, playing on grounds like

Peter Schmeichel.

the last line in

United's defence

tomorrow

against Fullham

At least the Fulham keeper should not be overawed by playing in front of a full house will be without their striker Geoff Horsfield, who is suspended, so Barry Hayles is likely to partner Paul Peschisolido (right) up front. The Belgian international Philippe Albert, on loan from Newcastle, is ineligible tomorrow but Neil Smith is available after a ban. United's Jaap Stam is available despite

doubts over a hamstring problem. Gary Neville is still feeling the effects of an injured knee but is in the squad and should play. MANCHESTER UNITED (from) Schmeiche, Van der Gouw, G Nevlie, Irwin, Johnsen, Stam, Beckhart, Butz. Cole, P Nevlie, Curtis, Biomopist, Yorke, Solstjaer, Berg, Brown, May. PERLHAM (from): Taylor, Arendse, Brevett, Symons, Coleman, Morgan, Unierbeek, Finnan, Hayward, Smith, Collins, Brazier, Nelson, Haytes, Peschisolido, Lehmant, Salako.



TODAY'S FA CUP FIFTH ROUND MATCHES



Arsenal y Sheffield United

ARSENAL HAVE paid a heavy price for having so many players involved in Wednesday's international at Wembley. Tony Adams will be rested even though a scan has dispelled fears that he may have broken his nose in the game against France, while Martin Keown is out for three weeks after pulling a hamstring. Lee Dixon, the third Gunner in England's back line, was car-

ried off with concussion and is still troubled by a neck injury. Emmanuel Petit starts a three-match ban and with Matthew Upson doubtful with a groin injury the holders could have Gilles Grimandi and Steve Bould in central defence. Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu may be on the bench after receiving his work permit, Nelson Vivas looks set to replace Dixon at right-back with Stephen Hughes taking over from Petit in midfield. Fredrik Ljungberg (ankle) and Luis Boa Morte (knee) are still out.

Sheffield United have Wayne Quinn back from suspension. Midfield player Curtis Woodhouse, Paul Devlin and David Holdsworth should be given the all-clear after undergoing treatment for minor knocks, but there is a doubt over Roger Nilsen who will undergo a fitness test on a hamstring problem.

ARSEMAL (from): Seaman, Vivas, Grimands, Bould, Upson, Winterburn, Parlour, Vieira, Hughes, Overmars, Bergkamp, Anelka, Kanu, Diawara, Garde, Manninger, SKIEFFFELD UNINTED (from): Kelly, Oulnn, Derry, Sandford, Holdsworth, Marcelo, Woodhouse, Twiss, Devlin, Stuart, Nilsen, Morris, Ford, Anderson, Henry, Tracey. ns: Arsenal: Perit.



Barnsley v **Bristol Rovers**



BARNSLEY STRIKER Mike Sheron could make his debut after finally recovering from a hamstring injury following his £1m move from Queen's Park Rangers last month. The availability of the much-travelled Sheron will be especially welcome as fellow forward Mike Turner is Cup-tied and former Wolves striker Don Goodman is still struggling with his own hamstring

Adie Moses and Darren Sheridan both return from one-match bans, with the duo likely to be in the starting line-up and on the bench respectively. Craig Hignett should be fit despite a call injury, while Matt Appleby could come into contention despite a thigh strain which forced him out of last week's 2-2 draw with Crewe.

The Bristol Rovers player-manager, Ian Holloway, will make a late decision over his side. Mike Trought could get the nod to line up at centre-back for the Second Division side, alongside Steve Foster with Andy Thomson Cup-tied. In midfield, Josh Low, Stephane Leoni and Michael Meaker are vying for one place.

BARNISLEY (from): T Bullock, Eaden, Moses, De Zeeuw, Tinkler, Jones, Appleby, Richardson, Morgan, McClare, Hignett, Sheridan, M Bullock, Dyer, Hendine, Goodman, Marchelle, Rose, Markstedt, Sheron, Leese.
[13] BRISTOL ROWERS (from): Jones, Pritchard, Challis, Trees, Trought, Foster, Holloway, Low, Lee, Pennice, Meaker, Cureton, Roberts, Leoni



Everton v Coventry City



THE RETURN of Danny Cadamarteri after suspension gives Everton manager Walter Smith the rare luxury of picking from three strikers. Cadamarteri, 18-year-old Francis Jeffers who made his full debut at Derby last Sunday, and Ibrahima Bakavoko will all be considered.

In defence Marco Materazzi is still suspended and Slaven Bilic and Alex Cleland are long-term injury victims. David Unsworth has been having intensive treatment on a pulled call muscle that forced him off at half-time in the 2-1 defeat at Derby.

If Unsworth is ruled out, Craig Short could be pushed back into action after seven weeks out with a torn calf although he is not considered fully fit yet. Smith is likely to revert to a 4-4-2 formation, with veteran Dave Watson lining up alongside Richard Dunne and Michael Ball.

George Boateng and David Burrows return to Coventry's eam after one-match suspensions and new Bosnian signing Mo Konjic is set to make his full debut following his 22m transfer from Monaco. Paul Williams is out with a hamstring

injury.

EVERTON (from) Myhre. Ward. Unsworth Shart. Watson. Dunne. Ball. Dacourt. Hutchson. Burmby. Cadamarteri. Jetters. Bakayoko. Simonsen. Milligan. Jesons. COVENTRY CITY (from: Hedman, Nilsson. Shaw. Konne. Burrows. Boateng. McAlliste. Solvedt, Froggatt. Huckerby. Whelan, Breen. Teller, Aloisi. Gioaccturii, Edworthy. Quinn. Ograzoki. Joes: Everton Materizzi



Huddersfield v **Derby County**



HUDDERSFIELD TOWN'S Welsh international defender Steve Jenkins is out after picking up an ankle injury during last Sat-urday's defeat at Port Vale which also forced him of the midweek B international against Northern Ireland. Sam Collins (shin splints) is also out, while Grant Johnson is doubtful with a groin problem, with the due both having missed the Vale Park clash. With a lengthy list of long-term injured, manager Peter Jackson adds Jon Dyson to the squad after a comeback in the reserves this week following a lengthy lay-off with an Achilles

Dean Sturridge is on course to play for Derby after missing two matches with a hamstring pull but fellow striker Paulo Wanchope is definitely out, also with a hamstring injury. If Sturridge is passed fit, he will partner Deon Burton, who scored for Jamaica in midweek following his double against Everton last Sunday. German defender Stefan Schnoor is available after serving a one-match ban and midfielder Lars Bohinen has recovered

from flu and is back in the squad.

HIDDERSFIRED TOWN (from) Vassen, Edwards, Johnson, Gray, Bereston, Phillips,
Stewart, Allison, Thornley, Barnes, Hessey, Facey, Heavy, Dyson, Senior, Baldry, Edmondson, Beech. mondson, Beeth.

DERBY COUNTY (from): Hoult, Prior, Carbonan, Stimac, Laursen, Carsley, Erano,
Dongo, Balano, Sturndge, Burton, Harper, Powell, Hunt, Schnoor, Bohinen, Elliott,
Kinght,

Suspensions, None, Peleree G Willard (Worthing)

And statistics

Are fans still up for the Cup?

AFTER YEARS in the doldrums, the FA Cup's appeal is returning, for smaller sides at least. The dwindling support for League football in the Seventies was mirrored in the Cup but until now the upturn in League support in the Nineties – especially in the Premiership – was not reflected in the Cup. Then, last season, average gates rose from 12,200 to 13,200 and that increase has been well maintained this year. Proof of enduring Cup magic has been at smaller clubs – such as Port Vale, Plymouth and Bristol Rovers, which have seen their largest gates of the season for Cup games - but some evidence of footy fatigue can be seen elsewhere, notably at Nottingham Forest. Tottenham and Everton, where Cup games drew the lowest gates of the season.

On the pitch in recent years, performances have shown - perhaps against expectation – that League duties have not unduly affected performances in the Cup. Of the six League and Cup Doubles done this century, three have come since the start of the Premiership. Look at the form of top flight teams in the League and Cup and Manchester United top both tables by a street. Chelsea and Wimbledon have found Cup success in excess of their League form while both Liverpool and Blackburn have disappointed in the Cup. And the minnows? Five Nationwide clubs enter the fifth round along with

11 Premiership clubs. One minnow, at least, must survive, with Barnsley playing Bristol Rovers. Huddersfield (at home to Derby), Sheffield United (at Arsenal) and Fulham (at Manchester United) have their chance of giant-killing glory. Four Premiership clubs - Southampton, Nottingham Forest and West Ham in the third round and Aston Villa in the fourth round - have already fallen to third round and Aston Villa in the fourth round – have already fallen to Nationwide opposition. Fulham are going for their glant-killing hat-trick at the most difficult venue of all. Sheffield United have a recent pedigree: two years ago in the third round, having drawn at Highbury, they defeated the Gunners by a single goal in the Bramall Lane replay, and last year they progressed to the semi-final at the expense of Coventry. Huddersfield have to look much further back for their moment of glory. Twice in the last three seasons they have been knocked out by Wimbledon, but on 7 January 1984 they beat OPR – then riding high in the tron flight – 2-1 at home then riding high in the top flight - 2-1 at home.



			performance "
1) Manchester U	nited 32	76	(1)
2) Chelsea	31	62	(6)
3) Wimbledon	35	60-	(9)
4) Arsenal	29	57	(3)
5) Leeds	- 3 ,,28	50	(7)
6) Tottenham	27	49	(10)
7) Sheff Wed	25	45	(11)
8) Newcastle	22	41	(8)
9) Aston Villa	23	40	(5)
10) Liverpool	23	36	(2)
11) Everton	19	34	(12)
12) Blackburn	21	33	(4)
13) Coventry	20	32 "	(13)
14) West Ham	21	31	(15)
15) Man City	16	28	(18)
16) Nottingham F	orest 17	28	(23)
19) Leicester	11	19	(21)
20) Southampton		19	(14)
21) Derby	8	- 18 - 18	(22)
22) Ipswich	10	17	(24)
23) Oldham	9	15	(26)
24) OPR	. 9	15	(17)
25) Sheffield Units		13	(25 <u>)</u>
26) Norwich	8	13	(19)
27) Barnsley	6	11	(29)
28) Bolton	. 3	3	(27)
29) Sunderland	2	1,	(28)
30) Swindon	. 2	1	(30)
31) Charlton	. 1 .	0.	(31)

w one point, point absolute number of points accumulated in the politic real start of the 1992-93 season and now. For example: Man a report of the 1992-93 season and now. For example: Man a report of the 1992-93 season and now. For example: Man a report of the 1992-93 season and now. For example: Man a report of the start of the 1992-93 season and now. For example: Man are 19th with 284 points and Charitron are 31st with 20 points from 24 games.

Date	Game	Gate	Highest League gate	'Cup magic' factor
3 Jan	Port Vale v Liverpool	16,557	10,465	+6,092
4 Jan	Preston v Arsenal	21,099	15.888	+5,211
2 Jan	Plymouth v Derby	16,730	11,936	+4,794
23 Jan	Swansea v Derby	11.383	7,757	+3,626
2 Jan	Bristol City v Everton	19,608	16,257	+3,351"
13 Jan	Fulham v Southampton	17,448	14,284	+3.164
2 Jan	Lincoln v Sunderland	10,408	7,338	+3,070
2 Jan	B'nemouth v West Brom	10.881	3,863	+2,018
23 Jan	Portsmouth v Leeds	18,864	17,022	+1,842
23 Jan	Bristol Rvers v L Orient	9.274	7,529	+1,745

Cup tragic? 10,092 N Forest v Portsmouth 21,362 Blackburn v Charlton 16,631 19 Jan 10.510 15.115 Barnsley v Swindon 2 Feb Tottenham v Wimbledor 24,049 28,338

14,197

28.854

18.737

11,226

4.207

1960-1961 1970-1971 Arsenal Liverpool 1993-1994 1995-1996 Manchester Uniced 1997-1998 Arşenal Sbortfall League gate de sides reaching the FA Cup Fifth round 1992-99 -11,270 1992-93 -5,913 -4,605 1994-95 -4.2891995-96 16.006 -1,809 1996-97 14,354 -1,805 30.357 -1,503 19.321 -584 11.717 -491 Statistics: Brian Sears/Nick Harris

League attendances on the up - Cup in the doldrums

Premiership

average gates, 000's

FA Cup

20th Century League and Cup Doubles



Coventry v Macclesfield

Southampton v Fulham

oledon v Man City

3 Jan Sheff Wed v Norwich

Crewe v Oxford

all week because of a back problem.

castle through suspension.

Teenage striker Alan Smith is fit after

bruising an instep and will be partnered

up front by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink

who missed last week's defeat by New-

2 Jan

2 Jan

2 Jan

2 Jan

Leeds United v Tottenham



LEEDS UNITED manager David O'Leary Tottenham captain Sol Campbell, who faces further injury headaches. He is without long-term absentees Gary Kelly. pulled out of England's midweek friendly against France, is doubtful after missing Robert Molenaar, Martin Hiden and David training this week with a stomach virus. Batty, and midfielders Bruno Ribeiro (toe) But the centre-back is in a squad of 20 for and Stephen McPhail (knee) are still out the game along with Frenchman David Ginola, who looks to have made a complete of action. Of major concern are ankle inrecovery from hamstring trouble which has juries to David Hopkin and Lee Bowyer, while Jonathon Woodgate has not trained

kept him out of the last three matches. Ginola, however, could be kept back for the Worthington semi-final second leg at Wimbledon next Tuesday - the trophy which manager George Graham admits is his priority this season. "Twe worked hard with the fitness trainer for three days this week and

everything seems fine now," said Ginola, who damaged the hamstring in the goalless first leg of the Worthington semi 17 days ago. Since then he has had to report for day-long treatment every weekday morning.

Meanwhile Ramon Vega and Colin Calderwood are on standby for Campbell Tim Sherwood, Tottenham's £4m signing from Blackburn, looks set for his full debut.

INTO UNITED (from): Martyn, Haaland, Radebe,
Wetherall, Korsten, Winhard, Hasselbaink, Bonyer,
Hopkin, Gramille, Halle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate,
Smith, Jones, Knarvik, Robinson.

TOTTENHARM MOTSPUR (from): Walker, Carr, Vega,
Young, Campbell, Calderwood, Edinburgh, Taricco, Fox,
Anderron, Freund, Nielsen, Sherwood, Sinton, Ginola,
Dominguez, Armstrong, Ferdinand, hiersen, Baardsen,
Suspensions: None,
Referee: N Barry (Scunthorpe).



Sheff Wed v Chelsea



SHEFFTELD WEDNESDAY left-back Andy Hinchcliffe is undergoing extensive treatment after twisting his knee in training with England earlier this week, although a scan has ruled out the need for surgery.

Goalkeeper Kevin Pressman will begin re-staking his claim for the No 1 shirt as Czech international Pavel Smicek begins a three-match ban following his dismissal for serious foul play in the recent defeat by Derby.

Giantuca Vialli is set to recall himself for Chelsea and is likely to rest young Finnish striker Mikael Forssell. Defenders Michael Duberry and Albert Ferrer are both back in contention after recovering from injuries.

Vialli, who celebrated his first anniversary as Chelsea player-manager this week, said of the FA Cup yesterday: "I like the passion of the competition and what it means to players and supporters alike. The atmosphere is special and it is great now the less famous teams try to upset the famous ones. All the foreign players at Cheisea want to do well in the Cup and go as far as possible in it."

CAS ALE ALD JUNESUJEC III 11.

SHEPFIELD WIEDNIESDAY (from): Pressman, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Sanetti, Cobian, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Cakes, Hinch-cliffe, Emerson, Rudi, Alexandersson, Sonner, Clarke.

CHELSEA (from): De Goey: Ferrer, Myers, Duberry, Lumbourde, Desaily, Babbyaro, Leboeuf, Le Saux, Petrescu, Terry, Di Matteo, Nicholls, Morris, Newton, Wise, Goldback, Zola, Vialli, Forssell, Hitchcock.

Suspensions: Sheff Wednesday: Smicek. Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).

TOMORROW'S FA CUP (4.0) Newcastle v Blackburn



ALAN SHEARER returns to action for Newcastle against his old club. The England captain is back after suspension, but Greek defender Nikos Dabizas must sit out a second game. Frenchman Didier Domi returns from a hamstring injury, probably at the expense of Warren Barton, and club captain Rob Lee is in the squad after missing eight games with an Achilles

Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz is a major doubt for Blackburn Rovers. Henchoz, who was suspended for last Saturday's Premiership win at Aston Villa, Blackburn's first away from home, returned this week from international duty with a thigh strain and will need a late check. Blackburn will be missing suspended winger Jason Wilcox and the Cup-tied duo Jasor McAteer and Matt Jansen.

Manager Brian Kidd will give fitness tests today to Irish defender Jeff Kenna (ankle) and Scottish midfielder Billy McKinlay (groin) but winger Keith Gillespie has declared himself fit to return against his former club. He scored the goal which beat Sunderland in the previous round but missed the win at

Deat Sungernand in the previous Pount but missed the will at Villa Park with an ankle problem.

**REMICASTLE UNITED (from): Given, Harper, Griffin, Charvet, Howey, Doml, Speed, Harnann, Solano, Glass, Shearer, Ketsbala, Lee, Barton, Saha, Andersson, Georgiadis, Brack, Pearce, Dalgish.

**ELACKBURN ROWERS (from:) Filan, Davidson, Kenna, Henchoz, Peacock, Broomes, Durn, Duff, McKinlay, Suction, Ward, Davids, Dalily, Marcolin, Flowers, Gillespie.

Suspensions: Newcastle: Dabizas, Blackburn: Wilcox.

Referee: D Gallagher (Banbury).

TODAY'S FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



Charlton v Liverpool



素質の動物を指摘には、一般のないできた。

ALAN CURBISHLEY, the Chariton manager, has to make decision on new signing John Barnes and striker Clive Mendonca. Former Newcastle player Barnes declared himself fit after a run-out in the reserves against Cambridge on Wednesday, but Curbishley said he may need more match action before he returns to the Premiership. Mendonca also played 90 minutes in the reserves. The Addicks' top scorer has been out with a groin injury since Christmas. Defensive duo Eddie Youds and Richard Rufus are both out. Youds has tendinitis and Rufus has a broken arm but is trying to get clearance to play wearing in a lightweight cast.

Liverpool captain Paul Ince picked up a leg injury during England's 2-0 defeat by France at Wembley on Wednesday and is a doubt. Patrik Berger has a hamstring problem and young-sters David Thompson or Steven Gerrard could be drafted into midfield. Steve Staunton, who was withdrawn from the Republic of Ireland squad for the Dublin game against Paraguay with a calf strain, should be fit to play. Rigobert Song, who was an unused substitute in last weekend's 3-1 win over Middlesbrough.

Will also be staking a claim.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (from): Royce, Mills, Titer, Brown, Konchesky, Robinson, Redfearh, Kinsella, Powell, Hunt, Pringle, the Jones, Barness, Bright, Newton.



West Ham v **Nottingham Forest**



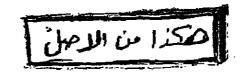
WEST HAM defender Neil Ruddock is fit again to play and is likely to replace Julian Dicks, who has flu. Ian Wright, Marc Keller and Richard Hall all remain on the injured list. John Moncur also has a touch of flu and is rated as doubtful, but Steve Lomas has recovered from his illness.

Nottingham Forest's Ron Atkinson hopes to have Stale Stensaas. Steve Chettle and John Harkes available. Jean-Claude Darcheville, who looked to be out of the running after damaging a hamstring in last Saturday's 8-1 defeat by Manchester United, could also be in contention. His problem is not as serious as first feared and the French striker could yet figure in Atkinson's plans. Stensaas, meanwhile, is well on the road to recovery from the thigh injury that forced him to miss the United defeat. Harkes, who was mursing a sore hamstring earlier in the week, has been given the go-ahead to play while Chettle has shaken off a bad bout of flu.

WIEST MAIN UNITED (from): Histop, Raddock, Ferdinand, Pearce, Lomas, Minto, Lazaridis, Sinclair, Lampard, Foe, Berkovk, Di Canib, Rikson, Forrest, Cole, Hodges, Omoylman, Potts, Moncur, Abou, Coyne.

NOTTINISHAM FOREST (from): Beasant, Harkes, Scensaas, Armstrong, Palmer, Hjelde, Mattsson, Chertle, Stone, Gemmil, Johnson, Rogers, Porfino, Van Hoogen, Lordon, Potter, Proedman, Shipperley, Bort-Williams, Woan, Bonalsir, Crossley,

Referee: R Harris (Oxford).



SPORT



THE INDEPENDENT

THORNLEY'S CUP GOAL P30 FRAN COTTON'S RUGBY VISION P21

Wilkinson stays until summer

HOWARD WILKINSON is set to continue as caretaker England coach until the summer when BY GLENN MOORE the Football Association will attempt to entice Kevin Keegan or Alex Ferguson to take the job permanently.

This would mean Wilkinson European Championship qualifiers against Poland on 27 and Bulgaria in June. He would then hope to hand over a team with a good chance of qualifying for the finals to be held in the Netherlands and Belgium

Wilkinson kept the public, the pundits and the bookies guessing yesterday as the promised plume of smoke above his Lantaking charge for the crucial caster Gate office failed to emerge. Instead a smokescreen was released in the March, and, probably, Sweden form of a statement which sought buy time before he revealed his decision on whether to go for the post of national

is doing as technical director is too important to relinquish.

Wilkinson, who had a lengthy meeting with Noel White, the chairman of the FA's International Committee, said they had discussed "the current situation at the FA in the context of the recent restructuring proposals (largely put forward by Wilkinson) being taken forward within the FA.

"These proposals concern the integration of all professional and international foot-However, it failed to obscure ball within the FA. Their is likely to confirm Wilkinson's Wilkinson's belief, shared by implementation and the selec-

England are to become the world's best.

"The rush to make a deci-

sion, any decision, must not be allowed to force compromises to have to be made. These decisions will affect football in this country for the next 10 years. "As a result of our discussions it is expected that an an-

nouncement will be made next week concerning the situation taking us through to June." That announcement, which

The first is the FA Cup fifthrole until June, has been

senior FA figures, that the job he tion of the right person for the delayed by the need to have it round meeting between their appointed caretaker within an England coach are crucial if ratified by other members of clubs at Old Trafford tomorrow. hour of Hoddle's departure last The FA hope that Fulham will the sub-committee responsible for appointing Glenn Hoddle's gain promotion, or United win the European Cup, and thus successor. This is why Wilkinmake it easier to prise the son added: "Given my position architect of such success away. within the FA it would not be Should both refuse to be lured, appropriate at this time to and Keegan is regarded as the make public my personal decimore likely to accept despite his sion in respect of the position recent denials of interest, of England coach." Both Keegan, the chief opcandidates such as Roy Hodg-

erating officer of Fulham, and Bobby Robson, will re-enter Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, have heavy Wilkinson, a former Notts commitments to the end of this

County, Sheffield Wednesday and Leeds manager, was

week. He took charge of England's disappointing friendly with France on Wednesday which ended with a 2-0 defeat after Wilkinson had just three days coaching a squad that had been chosen by Hoddle. As technical director Wilkin-

son has been responsible for

pushing through the Charter for

Quality which deals with the son and, in the short term, coaching and playing of football from eight-year-olds to the national team. Initiatives include the nationwide youth academy

tablishment of a coaches' association involving more extensive training and regular retraining of coaches at all levels.

Lawrie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, yesterday claimed Keegan had all the credentials to become England coach, but then ruled him out for now because of his present position at Fulham.

"Kevin has all the attributes with the added bonus of having had a supreme career (But) the timing, if they offered it to him this weekend, is wrong."

Charlton help other clubs over sabotage

CHARLTON WILL provide evi- BY MATT BARLOW dence to other Premier League clubs to ensure the electronic after a break-in at The Valley's sabotage which threatened their game against Liverpool has not been copied.

The Addicks have checked their floodlight system at The with, leading to four arrests in syndicates based in Malaysia. connection with an alleged Far Eastern betting ring. Charlton are keen to share their experience with other clubs to stop the English game becoming the victim of sabotage which can net gamblers huge rewards on the other side of the globe.

Detectives investigating the alleged plan to blow the lights at The Valley removed electrical equipment from the ground for evidence.

volving the police and the Pre- been blacked out and a game at mier League, Charlton are Manchester United was deready to play their home game layed last month when the against Liverpool. It goes ahead as planned. kick-off 3pm, despite fears that it might be brought forward, or even postponed.

Charlton's managing director, Peter Varney, who has been at the centre of the discussions, said extensive work had been done to rectify the damage caused to the floodlights so the game could go ahead, and the South London club will be liaising closely with other clubs to make sure they have not been hit by floodlight saboteurs.

Varney said: "We will be provicing evidence to all other Premier League clubs of how this has been done. If it's been copied at other clubs, they can put that right immediately.

"We've a very important role to play for football in this country and, if this has been copied at other clubs, we must eradi-

Four men, three Malaysians and a member of Charlton's security feam, were arrested

power room on Wednesday when electrical cable was tampered with.

Police believe they may have thwarted a major betting sting Valley after it was tampered involving big-money gambling

> Varney added: "Substantial amounts of money have changed hands to bring about the sort of sabotage done to our electrical system. People only do that if they stand to make a huge financial gain from doing

Police are already looking into other Premiership matches that have been the victims of floodlight failures in recent seasons. Games at West Ham, After a series of meetings in- Wimbledon and Derby have all lights failed

Varney said Charlton had acted quickly in the best interests of the club even though this could have meant changing the kick-off time for the Liverpool game.

It was important for Charlton that the match went ahead, as they could steal a march on their relegation rivals on this FA Cup fifth round weekend if they could overcome Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, who travel to West Ham, are the only other strugglers in League action.

Varney said: "It's been a hectic few days for us all at the club but we're delighted to go ahead with the match as planned." Singapore's national league

will become the first in Asia to legalise domestic betting when the season opens 31 March. One reason the practice has been restricted is because of fears it will lead to match-fixing



Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola (left) and Celestine Babayaro play keep-up as they prepare for their fifth-round FA Cup tie against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough today

FA cleared by Fifa over cash for votes case

AN INVESTIGATION by Fifa, BY ADAM SZRETER football's world governing body, has cleared the English and Welsh Football Associations of any misconduct in the affair that led to the resignations of already begun building bridges the English FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, and chairman, Keith Wiseman.

It was alleged that the two men had been attempting to secure support from the Welsh FA for Wiseman's bid to be elected to the Fifa executive as the home nations' representative, in order to boost England's 2006 World Cup bid. Fifa executives spoke to representatives from both the FA and the Welsh FA at the end of January but have now ruled that the case is closed. A Fifa spokesman said: "We have found that there were no incorrect or improper actions that would warrant fur-

ther investigation." The FA, which has endured a chaotic past two months in which its chairman and chief executive, as well as the England team's head coach, Glenn Hoddle, have been forced to resign, welcomed the statement as an endorsement of its prompt actions. Kelly was the first to leave his post last December after the FA's executive committee ruled that he had acted without having first consulted either the committee or the FA's full council. Wiseman attempted to cling on to power until a meeting of the full council in early January but was met with widespread opposition and

he too resigned. Wiseman thanked the FA for having made clear that "no aspersions had been cast on my integrity or honesty" but was condemned for what his interim successor, Geoff Thompson, called an "error of judgment". Thompson, the former vicechairman, and David Davies, the director of public affairs, have

been installed in the temporary roles of chairman and executive director respectively, and have with Uefa, the European governing body, and Fifa.

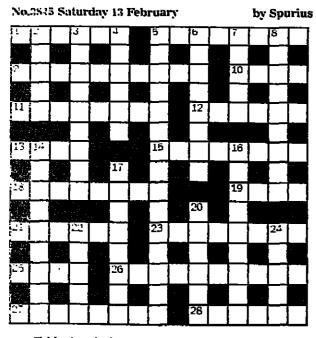
The FA's spokesman, Steve Double, said: "We gave a full report on the circumstances of the departure of Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman when David Davies and Geoff Thompson went to Switzerland to meet Fifa president Sepp Blatter two weeks ago... It was made clear to us that Fife fully accepted our version of events and why the actions had to be taken. We are pleased that they have publicly confirmed that today."

Although the Fifa statement was not being seen at Lancaster Gate as an endorsement of his actions, Kelly also welcomed it as "good news". Kelly told RBC Radio 5 Live: "I didn't know there was an investigation going on but it's nice to be cleared by it. The critical issue was that I couldn't persuade the (FA) executive committee that what I was doing was legitimate and in the best interests of English football. We could have carried on arguing but it would have been a very messy dispute. and I don't know whether I would have won irrespective of

today's findings by Fifa." Asked whether the FA felt the two men were right to resign, Double said: "We take the view that they were. They acted without proper authority

In the meantime the Welsh FA is still expecting a cheque for £900,000, less than the original £3.2m agreed between the two parties, although it remains unclear how and when this money will be paid. According to Double, the money will now come from the Football

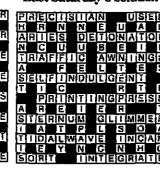
THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

3

Last Saturday's solution



ACROSS

Alternative route around eastern Thailand, some-what hard (6) headed person in charge of a line of sailors (8) South American bully (6,4)

Burden on old star's back (4) a student (8) Fellow originally expressing thought, for example,

about security (6) Sound system provided in State endless din's about

to produce? (8) Natural material used in manufacture of pink bowl (8) 19 Emblem German left out,

21 Fit clubs into new cases (6)

şmart little buzzer (8) Request from couple accepted (4) Complaint from husband initially somewhat immature, perhaps (10) 27 When kind, journalist appears different (8) 28 Very keen to wield the

DOWN

An aficionado of Graves, among others? (9) Horsemen one's seen in quaint dress (6) security measures
necessitating roundabout way to the Bank of Eng-land? (6.3.6)

Loose mm's fate, really horrible (8) Billiard shot popular with old fellows (2-3) Majority hold out for im-provement after notice is

given (9) in which some, though equal? (9)
16 Corrupted daughter

putting on strange black vesture (9) Sharp end of clipper? (8) 20 Uplifting English musical about maiden runs for a

22 Time to find poetic inspiration (5) 24 Rope very big officer's abandoned on the way

Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: P Boswell, Crewell: T Screen, Abertillery; J Williams, Shrewsbury; M Stokes, Clifton; V Riley, Cheadle Hulme.

Graveney wants an 'upbeat' England

AS RAIN swept in for the first time in Melbourne since Boxing Day, the second game of the Carlton & United Series final was washed out on Thursday night, and was due to start in the early hours of

this morning.
If England win the second match against Australia to level the final at 1-1, the sides will have to meet again in a deciding tie tomorrow, an especially hectic conclusion for the players in the party who were also involved in the Ashes leg of the tour.

"T've stressed the point to all

CRICKET BY DAVID FIELD

in Melbourne of them that they have got to get

back to the way they responded in the league' matches," England's tour manager, David Graveney, said. "They have to be upbeat about what they want to do and buzz as a team "There are several factors why you lose a game. A num-

ber of players mentioned to me why you lose a game, it's either by tension or something else. "There was just a slightly difgame in Sydney, because we a play-off situation.

We had a meeting as a whole group and we reaffirmed that we've got to look forward and not back. Australia will certainly want us to feel the impact of losing in that manner. "It was a game we threw

away, and the disappointment omes very, very acute. Having lost the match as we did, the best cure is to get out there and play. It's no good kicking your

On Thursday night, the

ferent atmosphere for that weather briefly cleared up in time for the England captain, were in the finals as opposed to Alec Stewart, to win the toss and elect to bat first, but that

will now count for nothing. England have given a vote of confidence to the side beaten in Sydney, while Australia have called up the Queensland and Essex all-rounder, Stuart Law, to replace Michael Bevan, who has dislocated a finger.

But the heavens opened while the teams stood for the national anthems, and the rain grew steadier before the impires called off the match.

IN MONDAY'S NEW 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION "I've lost nearly two stone in the last year. Why?

Dunno. Certain amount of stress, possibly" WILL CARLING TALKS TO RICHARD WILLIAMS

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WEEKEND REVIEW

COMMENT • ARTS & BOOKS • COUNTRY & GARDEN • TRAVEL



RUSHDIE'S UNFUNNY VALENTINE

ESSAY, PAGE 7



WHAT JOHN LE CARRE DID NEXT

BOOKS, PAGE 15



WILD BOAR: ON THE LOOSE IN KENT?

COUNTRY, PAGE 18



ISLE OF LOVE: HONEYMOON IN MAURITIUS

TRAVEL, PAGE 19

Sex, adventure, places, writing – these are the ingredients of romance. Not for English men, though. From Lord Byron to Nick Drake, the great English Romantic has been an effete, narcissistic poseur, neutered by his own blankness

F.A clearedh Fifa over cul for votes cu hat do you expect from Romance? The sweep of a cloak, the sound of hooves, the lap of waves against a gondola, the spiral of smoke from blown-out candles, the first kiss in a shadowed hallway... Just don't expect it from Englishmen. For the concept of "romantic" has long taken root in the English soul as being little

to do with tender passions.

"Romance" has several meanings: the major connotation is of course "a happy but short-lived affair". Other connotations are "a spirit of or inclination for adventure, excitement or mystery", and "a mysterious, exciting, sentimental or nostalgic quality associated with a place"; and lastly,

literary narratives that deal with events and

characters remote from ordinary life".

So that's romance: sex, adventure, places and writing. The trouble with Romantic Englishmen is that they take too literally the second, third and fourth, and tend to downgrade the first. They'd rather get into scrapes, travel, write and move on than behave like eligible partners. From Lord Byron to Bruce Chatwin, the line exhibits consistent but puzzling characteristics. There seem to be five main characteristics of the Romantic Englishman: he went to a good school, he has unruly hair, he writes a bit, he is always in transit, and some people think he's homosexual.

BY JOHN WALSH

Take his most recent embodiments, Joe Fiennes and Richard E Grant. Both actors emote spectacularly; they're all eyes and mouth. Mr Grant, playing the Scarlet Pimpernel, did his habitual mad gleam and sharky grin. Mr Fiennes, playing Will Shakespeare in Shakespeare in Love, does the brimming pools and open-mouthed astonishment that are his joint trademark. But as men of action, they both leave much to be desired.

Watching Fiennes' scampering through Elizabethan London, asleep at his desk or supine in the theatre circle, you feel you're watching a spindly, art-shop marionette, a perplexed Giacometti sculpture come to life. Grant, as Sir Percy Blakeney, metamorphoses from a foppish, lorgnette-twirling court popinjay to a dashing, Paris-bound, blade-twirling Zorro of the Tuileries; but he doesn't quite make it. Confronted by Chauvelin's secret police, he does a lot of prancing about, shouting "Take that, you brute", and engaging in fisticuffs, but always suggesting he'd be happier in the gym at Harrow, giving his fag a gentlemanly drubbing.

Of course, the parts they're playing are writers. Shakespeare is a world-class stealer of other people's ideas for his plays, and the Pimpernel is a sub-Oscar epigrammatist and composer of "They seek him here" doggerel. Writing is mandatory for Romantic Englishman. For English sensibilities, there's no romance without composition and, preferably, publication - love as Dedication and Acknowledgements. "If you read a lot of travel books," a woman friend told me, wistfully, "you'd be surprised how many acknowledgements there are to women in whose house I spent a profitable three months', after which, presumably, the author took his manuscript, his conversation and his attenuated passion off to another house and another Muse." In the real "Romance" countries, the language of wooing and seduction is urgent, rhetorical and personal; for the Romantic Englishman, it's tentative, measured and probably about the mating habits of the Hopi tribespeople.

Public schools, travel and writing seem an inescapable troiks of requirements for the Romantic Englishman. Start with Byron, who went to Harrow, and Shelley (Eton), and you're pitched in a maelstrom of sexual irregularity, restless travel-



Whodo you love?

ling through Europe and precocious literary activity. In more recent times, the restlessly-travelling British dreamboat has rarely been to a secondary-modern in Streatham: Bruce Chatwin went to Mariborough, Colin Thubron went to Eton, as did Robin Hanbury-Tenison and Mark McCrum, white Willie Dalrymple went to Ampleforth. Looking at the places they inspect - Dalrymple went to India, McCrum to South Africa, Australia and Ireland they seem like the grandsons of empire, casting a puzzled eye over what had become of the former colonies and dominions.

Or they become expatriate exotics. Two of the most glamorous Englishmen I've ever met, William Riviere and James Hamilton-Paterson, both travellers and writers, lived in the foothills of Umbria, each by himself; they rarely met. Hamilton-Paterson existed without electricity or plumbed-in water, wrote the brilliant Gerontius in six weeks and spent half of each year among the pirates of the Philippines; Riviere lived less frugally, wrote exquisitely impressionistic novels, affected a walking cane and a hat and entertained friends in London, at the Travellers Club.

Romantic Englishmen have always got to be elsewhere. Their watchword, whether they know the song or not, is "I'm the type of boy who is always on the road/ Wherever I lay my hat, that's my home". In America you get Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady, travelling and writing prose as an expression of macho individuality; for Englishmen, it's leaving home in order to bring the world back.

It's extraordinary how many exponents of the genre write books about their RE predecessors. Thus Charles Nicholl, intrepid adventurer of *The* Fruit Palace, wrote about the life and death of Christopher Marlowe, a classically dangerous, restless, sexually dubious RE. Thus Patrick French, the camp, jellaba-clad biographer of Frances Younghusband, the Victorian explorer, soldier, mystic and lover. Robert McCrum, the publisher, Observer literary editor and elder brother of Mark, wrote a novel called The Romantic Englishman in a triumphant feat of self-identification. Nicholas Shakespeare, who grew up in Peru as a diplomat's son, went to Winchester and has only recently returned from a long trek in India, is shortly to bring out a biography of Bruce Chatwin, the doyen of travellers, forever bounding across the globe from Patagonia to the Sahara, collecting exotic and jewelled objets while gradually turning himself into one. For the women (and men) in his life Chatwin was unpinnable in a way that's typical of the RE; you could have him for a while, like a beautiful possession, but sooner or later you had to relinquish possession to someone else. Travel writers apart, you can find the Roman-

tic Englishman popping up in the music world. Nick Drake, who killed himself aged 26, was a sad-eyed, Shelleyan, Marlborough-educated visionary with a deep, melodic English singing line. It was assumed that he never had an emotional relationship with anyone, but the girls are starting to come out of the woodwork. A (female) singersongwriter called Robin Frederick writes, in this month's Mojo, about how "Nick would appear at odd hours of the night at my flat. I'd let him in and we'd pass the time playing songs for each other. He stared at the wall, or the floor, or into the fire. Falling in love with Nick was a no-brainer, and I promptly did. He was extraordinarily attractive and that, plus his natural quietness, made it easy to weave a web of fantasies around him".

Continued on page 2

A cameo of Romantics, clockwise from top: Byron, Leslie Howard, Joe Fiennes, Nicholas Shakespeare, Shelley, Colin Thubron, Bruce Chatwin, Nick Drake, Keith Richards, Robert McCrum, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Brooke. Centre, Dennis Price as Lord Byron

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REVIEW



How £12,000 turned Jonathan Rendall into a man possessed

REAL LIFE



Marianne Jean-Baptiste on race, children and playing Doreen Lawrence



"It is 24 years since I started an affair with one of my students ... and it still hasn't finished"

CULTURE



What do scientists know about love? Natasha Walter on Valentine's day

PLUS Chris Patten's diary



Winter in Moscow No 6: To supplement their meagre diet, unemployed men fish for carp through holes cut in the ice on the Moskva river

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Driven to hunt

Sir: Sadly, hunt followers in four-wheel-drive vehicles are not confined to the South Downs (letter, 10 February). We experienced a similar phenomenon on Exmoor last year. But there, because there are many rural tracks which connect, it is possible for the cars continually to drive round in circles attempting to catch sight of the hunt. We set off with our children

for a three-quarter mile stroll down an unmetalled track to a remembered peaceful picnic spot by the river Barle. The first sign that all was not as it should be was a group of three motorbikes that repeatedly cast around and up and down the hillside. Then, an increasing roar signalled the progress along the track of 10 four-wheel-drives. We hugged the hedge while they passed, then plodded on. Half a mile further, having completed their circuit, they streamed past again. We reached the river and sat down. Vroomthis time three quad bikes

raced past adjacent the riverbank footpath. pausing only to ask if we had seen the hunt. Deciding that this was not the place to be, we packed up

ready to walk back up the hill. Briefly, we were passed by the huntsmen and hounds themselves. As we cajoled the children back up the track we were again ousted by the motorised entourage. The track, which years ago

had been an easy walk used by pedestrians, horses and sheep, was now rutted and churned up. JOANNE WELCH MICHAEL SILVERLEAF London SE5

Sir: The vast majority of 4x4 owners who use byways do so responsibly. They have a self-imposed code of conduct, which includes staying away from byways whose surface is damaged and needs time to recover. Voluntary restraint notices, which are seen as a grown-up alternative to Traffic Regulation Orders, are posted in consultation with county councils, and are adhered to by all but the

inevitable, irresponsible minority who exist in every walk of life.

It is saddening to see Duff

Hart-Davis (Country Matters, 6 February) resorting to the age-old emotive language of the anti-4x4 lobby, saying they 'churn green lanes, bridleways and footpaths into a morass". Recreational offroaders simply do not drive on footpaths or bridleways: to do so is against the law. Of the very few rights of way that are open to vehicles, only a tiny number are prone to excessive surface damage.

In my experience, intransigence on both sides can be put down to one factor: greed. That is what causes a small number of 4x4 owners to use the countryside without any regard for others. Likewise, it is the real reason for people wanting to ban them. Mr Hart-Davis doesn't want to share his own personal bucolic idyll with others whose presence offends him. ALAN KIDD Cowden, Kent

What FO policy?

Sir; For Anne McElvoy (Comment, 10 February) to write that British foreign policy towards Sierra Leone wasn't right and didn't work misses the point. There is no clearly articulated policy regarding Sierra Leone. The most urgent need is a clear statement of policy towards Sierra Leone from the British government.

The ethical issue is clear. This matter is about the future of the ballot box in West Africa - do we support the democratically elected President Kabbah and give democratic government a chance to take root or, through inaction or procrastination, allow a bloody and futile civil war to rage?

The rebels have their backers - Liberia and, reportedly, mercenaries and arms from Ukraine. The rebels have no political programme and no desire to engage in the democratic process. They are murderous thugs who kill their own

indiscriminately. The rebel interest is purely power and personal greed. This is the alternative for Sierra Leone.

The murky goings-on in the Foreign Office could have been avoided. The failure of this government was not to provide unequivocal backing to President Kabbah from the outset, Sierra Leone is now left with a devastated economy, with the democratic experiment in tatters and with no obvious end in sight to the civil war It is ironic that our own

preoccupation with the lack of parliamentary scrutiny over Foreign Office officials is exercising political opinion to a greater degree than the issue itself - helping a nation to move away from "rule of the gun" towards "rule of law". MARK WITHERS ANNA WITHERS Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Refugee targets Sir. The decision by the Home

Secretary to deprive refugees seeking political asylum of their right to social security benefits is shameful. Ministers have decided that political refugees make an easy and populist target as the economic weather turns stormy. Refugees will be prevented

from becoming integrated into British society. Without money you cannot be part of normal everyday society. The decision also has major implications for all other social security claimants. If refugees can live on food stamps and vouchers, what is there to stop this principle being extended to anyone who is unemployed or unwaged?

We also condemn the attempt to disperse refugee: When my grandparents, and most other Jewish immigrants, came to Britain they headed for the East End of London or the industrial cities of the North. Today's refugees also want to be with their own communities. To forcibly disperse people, on pain of losing the right to basic sustenance, will isolate those who are already traumatised and leave them as a target for attack by fascist and racist

groups. In Germany, where a similar policy applies, this is exactly what has happened.

Political refugees are not, for the most part, bogus or "economic migrants". They are the consequence of arms exports from the developed world, and Britain is the world's second biggest arms producer. The Government's 'ethical" foreign policy allows profits from arms sales to continue but seeks to keep out their human debris. TONY GREENSTEIN **Brighton Unemployed Centre**

Sir: One of the tests of the Immigration and Asylum Bill currently before Parliament is its effect on the most vulnerable - children. The UK special protection to child refugees or asylum seekers as stipulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The introduction of this Bill is an opportunity to do so. MARIE STAUNTON Deputy Director UNICEF - UK London WC2

Secret polluters

Sir: Richard Cormack (letter, 10 February) should focus his concern north of the border. The real scandal is not The Independent's headline, which treated pollution figures for England and Wales as applying to the whole of Britain, but that similar information on emissions from factories cannot be made available to those living in Scotland and

People throughout the UK

Northern Ireland

should have the right to know about who is releasing pollution into their area and what the potential health impacts might be. Currently, accessing most pollution information in Scotland is complicated, time consuming and expensive. In some cases the figures are either not available or not even collected. Easy public access to environmental information is key if we are to have environmental justice in Scotland. Friends of the Earth Scotland supports the aims of Matthew Taylor MP's

information more easily available to the public. We will be seeking similar if not stronger powers from the new Scottish Parliament. Dr RICHARD DIXON Head of Research Friends of the Earth Scotland

Welsh campaign

Edinburgh

Community Right to Know

Bill, which would make such

Sir: David Aaronovitch makes some curious points in his piece on prospective Welsh First Minister Rhodri Morgan ("These rebels may be game for a laugh, but they're good for nothing", 9 February). He begins by asserting that Morgan is the favoured candidate of the political press yet fails to mention the relentless and heavy-handed media campaign waged in favour of his opponent, Alun

Michael by Tony Blair and the

Labour Party front bench. What these attacks reveal is the frustration of the Labour Party establishment with regional electorates who, far from thanking the Labour leadership for granting them a measure of autonomy, instead appear intent upon using it to support

local candidates.

Perhaps Aaronovitch should relax a little and consider what exactly is the point of devolution unless it is to reflect the identity of - and offer the opportunity for political participation toregional communities. If Blair succeeds in imposing Michael's candidacy, then perhaps Aaronovitch could explain precisely what the Welsh people gain over the present system of appointees to the Welsh office. MARK ALASZEWSKI

In the slow lane

Sir. The views expressed on car speeds by Mervyn Curran and JJ Putnam (letters, 3, 6 February) need to be seriously questioned. While I agree that the idea of life in a society where everybody ambles along at 20mph sounds idyllic, it is an unworkable and dangerous fantasy

If every vehicle halves its speed, it will take twice as long to complete its journey: hence road occupancy will double and our roads will become twice as congested. Crossing the road will therefore become harder, not easier, in most urban and suburban areas.

in any case, our society depends for its wealth and stability upon constant economic expansion through improved communications: to hamstring it through artificial restraints would be an act of Luddism and economic folly. OLIVER HOWARTH Wolverhampton, West Midlands

IN BRIEF

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A CANAL MARKET

The little

Sir: The account of the shooting down of Amy Johnson which you published on 6 February ("Amy Johnson. my part in her downfall") said that Amy Johnson's aircraft was contacted by radio and a request was made for the colours of the day. She was said to have given the wrong signal twice. In fact Amy Johnson was flying a trainer, an Airspeed Oxford, for the Air Transport Auxiliary. Ferry pilots did not have radio. Amy Johnson was known to be lost and running out of fuel. If she had had radio, she would have been alerting anyone who heard her for help. PENELOPE DENT London N19

Sir: How amusing to read Richard Dawkins's "bluffer's guide" to the penal substitutionary theory of atonement (letter, 9 February). There is some evidence here of a first-rate theological mind, though also concern about a fundamentalist strain in his thinking. Further reading could be of help (I should be happy to supply a list); but since, in the current jargon of pastoral care, we are asked to get alongside people where they are", perhaps Professor Dawkins could start with The Ladybird Book of Jesus. It would represent a considerable advance The Rev JOHN SWARBRICK Maidenhead, Berkshire

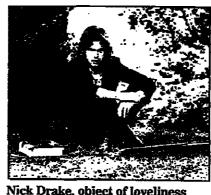
Who does the English Romantic really love?

Continued from page 1

Ms Frederick has put her finger on something here: the damned elusiveness of the Romantic Englishman and the central blankness into which would-be attachments can pour their desires.

Drake's depression has been attribanother recurring element in the RE profile. Confusingly, for the women in their lives, many Romantic Englishmen are quite amazingly effete. Baroness Orczy, author of the Piropernel stories, took one

wristed to play Sir Percy. Elyot Chase, the romantic lead in Noel Coward's Private Lives, and a byword in male sophistication, woos his ex-wife back from her new husband by the rhetoric of love, but is not above saying: "If [your husband] comes near me, I'll scream the place down." uted by some to his latent homosexuality. Female fans of Colin Thubron have gazed at his thrilling physiognomy, as their forbears once gazed at Rupert Brooke's, and sadly concluded he must be gay (wrong in both cases). Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones, a Romantic Englishlook at the Anglo-Hungarian Leslie man to millions of both sexes, can come Howard and decided he was just too limp- across as the hard-as-nails, two-fisted Nick Drake, object of loveliness



Pallenberg's silk blouses, and recently fell of their ambitions, some quiet, reflective off a ladder while languidly reaching for a volume of Leonardo prints.

It's very confusing. But the word effete" comes from the Latin ex foetus, and means "exhausted by childbirth", or by creativity. So if you're the kind of chap who writes, composes and turns himself into an object of loveliness, a little camp exhaustion is only to be expected. After spending the 19th century building an

roughneck one moment, and the next fighting the Russians, you could forgive become the figure who used to wear Anita the English for wanting, as the pinnacle episodes in exotic locations.

There's something classically narcissistic about the Romantic Englishman, He doesn't need women, though he likes their company. He doesn't want to be detained by their desires. He is happier being on the move, constantly en route between one destination and the next inspecting the world for images of him-self, which he then writes about with his empire, establishing trade links with the far world, industrialising the nation and allowed to fulfil the function of Muse, but

their Echo-like desire for the selfabsorbed Narcissus won't make him turn his face towards them, away from the mirror in which he regards himself.

It's a tough break falling in love with an RE, as Caroline Lamb or Harriet Shelley (or Anne Chatwin, or Lady Marguerite Blakeney) could have told you. They're always somewhere cise, somewhere under a post-colonial sun, squinting at the horizon, one hand on hip, choosing an adjective, dreaming of glory. You may get a jewelled Egyptian scarab out of it, or a 1,000-year-old egg. Or a place in the next page of acknowledgements.

*THE INDEPENDENT

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Mr Clinton's next trial is to prove he is a world leader

THANK GOODNESS it is all over. A year ago, President Clinton looked bruised, vulnerable, truculent and earnest. After going through the wringer of investigation, trial and acquittal, he looks, well, bruised, vulnerable, truculent and earnest. It is most odd. The full weight of the American constitution has borne down on Mr Clinton. The high-rise moralising of the American and world media has toppled over on him. And he has emerged from the cyclone like Dorothy at the end of The Wizard of Oz. back at home behind the white picket fence.

Nothing much has changed, except that Mr Clinton is more popular now than a year ago. The American economy has continued to defy the laws of both gravity and economics, and the President has continued to take the credit for Alan Greenspan's shrewd management.

But important lessons have been learned. Journalists, and not just in the United States, have discovered that voters are quite capable of deciding, if they are given the facts, that a politician can be flawed and still be good at his job. And they were certainly given the facts. However, although journalists may have contributed to the hysteria preceding the successive waves of salacious revelation, they were not responsible for the revelations themselves. It was the President himself who caused the gross invasion of his own and Monica Lewinsky's privacy. If he had only pleaded the Fifth Amendment the right not to incriminate himself - in the Paula Jones case, he would not have lied about his affair with the intern. With the arrogance of power, he could not have foreseen that he would be tripped up by a caricature Nemesis called Tripp. But in the end, knowing more than any of them could reasonably have wanted to know, the American people decided none of it mattered.

DITOR

Their verdict was transmitted through the machinery of the constitution, which may not be as good as American patriots think it is, but which is never the less a magnificent democratic construction. The case against the President was more than fully aired and the right result was achieved: Mr Clinton was humiliated and embarrassed, but endorsed as chief executive.

As a result, the Republican party has learnt something too, although it is too shell-shocked to know what it is. The one person who seems to have learnt nothing is Kenneth Starr, whom Mrs Malaprop might have described as the "independent persecutor". Yesterday's vote may not be, of course, the absolute end of the story because Mr Starr shows every sign of wanting to bring criminal charges against his quarry in the ordinary courts. It is not clear whether he can do this while Mr Clinton is still in office, but as Mr Starr's commission lasts for one year after the President leaves office, he will certainly be able

Mr Starr's coda apart, though, the world can breathe a sigh of relief and turn to more important matters. Mr Clinton has a world to lead and a place in history to secure. And it is in foreign policy that he needs to work hardest in order to make up for lost time. For, although the agonies and distractions of the impeachment process have had surprisingly few ill effects in domestic affairs, damage has been done to America's moral authority abroad. In particular, Mr Clinton bombed an aspirin factory in the suburbs of Khartoum in order to draw attention away from his broadcast admission, two days before, of a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was



"not appropriate" and "wrong". That was inexcusable, and it is noticeable that no evidence has since been produced to substantiate the claim that it was making chemical weapons. Not in America, and not here, despite the British Government's fulsome support for the bombing. It was illegal, but it was also a big tactical error, because it will have fuelled the sense of Arab Muslim grievance against the US and its allies - the sense of grievance which inspires the same fundamentalist terrorists against whom the bombing was aimed.

Now, though, Mr Clinton has the chance to look forward over the next two years and to redeem himself as the last 20th-century president. There is bound to be a worry that he only operates well - and when he operates well, he is undoubtedly a brilliant politician - when he is under pressure. He may be tempted to relax into an extended transition to an Al Gore presidency. For the sake of a world which could see the rule of law increasingly take the place of the superpower rivalries which once held sway, it is to be hoped that Mr Clinton feels the goad of the historian's pen in the small of his back. Peace, human rights and a sustainable ecology re an attentive leader of the most powerful nation.

He cannot escape the fate of being the president who brought the Oval Office into bawdy ridicule. But now that he has been acquitted, he has the chance to add to that the distinction of being the first president to emerge strengthened from impeachment, and the first to translate the high ideals of the American constitution, which in the end served him well, into international law.

Slush, mush and an orgy of marketing

LEADERS AND COMMENT/3

HE IS listed in Butler's Lives of Patron Sciuts in between Ubald, patron saint for protection from dog bites. rabies or hydrophobia, and Venantius, patron saint against danger from falling, or jumping and leaping. It would make just as much sense, theologically, historically and superstitiously, for card printers and heliumfilled balloon-makers to sell "beware of the dog" paraphernalia on 16 May. Or "mind the gap" paraphernalia on 18 May.

But no. Slush, mush, and a cheap synthetic notion of romantic love have made St Valentine the commercial success story of the coldest month. The doubtful legacv of at least two separate saints called Valentine, who are both alleged to have died on 14 February, has been fed into the homogenising machine of modern capitalism for creating popular culture. Valentine has been extruded in much the same way as the equally doubtful history of St Nicholas. Church pleas to recall the ostensible purpose of the Christ Mass in marking the birth of Jesus have been drowned by the racket of toy advertising, which starts long before the day of the patron saint of children on 6 December. The red-jacketed Santa Claus was not, in fact, invented by the Coca-Cola corporation, but he might as well have been. (According to Butler's, St Nicholas is also patron saint of brides. unmarried women, pawnbrokers, perfumiers, Russia, travellers and sailors - a range of commercial opportunities which remain unexploited so far.)

Is nothing sacred? It appears not. Easter is heading the same way, for the purpose of retailing large quantities of chocolate. It is the pagan fertility symbols which get top billing rather than the cross and the stigmata.

As soon as the Xmas'n'New Year double retailing opportunity was over, some supermarkets immediately began displaying Easter eggs - skipping Valentine's Day in their eagerness to hit the next pre-programmed "special occasion".

A calendar based on saint's days has now been reconstructed in a series of artificial festivals celebrated in the temples of mammon. Mother's Day is next. Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes have increasing potential as a kind of two-for-the-price-of-one bumper special. Supermarkets are even trying to flog turkeys for Thanksgiving and the invented Father's Day is now an established feature. New days for grandparents, siblings and in-laws are in the offing. And this year all this date-ology will end in the consummate silliness of the new millennium.

Yes, we know. All newspapers succumb to the romantic fever in some form (and we too are guilty). But all the same, roll on Monday.

Noteworthy figure

THE BANK of England is about to produce a 220 note that will feature a likeness of Edward Elgar. This is all wrong. The composer of "Land of Hope and Glory" has cked by those nostalgic for imperial glories. despite valiant efforts to reclaim him for the left. We have an alternative. As it is to be hoped this will be the last new banknote before the euro is adopted, we nominate Adam Smith. Currently adorning the back of Clydesdale Bank's £50 notes, the great Scottish - and British thinker merits wider recognition for giving liberal freemarket economics to the world. May the Hidden Hand move the fuddy-duddies of Threadneedle Street.

Does this modern nation still need a Poet Laureate?

MY FRIEND the poet Brendan Kennelly recalls a relative once asking him what he was working at. Writing po-etry, Kennelly replied. "Ah, poetry my arse," replied the relative. It wasn't that he didn't like verse or that he didn't like Brendan. But there were fields to plough, animals to tend to, bills to be paid. The relative looked on Brendan's poetic preoccupation as some-thing of another world.

The fact that the fields and hills of North Kerry, lonely and stark and memory laden, provided this poet's inspiration did not matter; the fact that Kennelly's poetry did honour to the small farmers and their families, that it spoke of the truth of their lives, did not come into play. Poetry, it was implied, never put food on any man's table. It was stuff for colleges and scholars. Hearing the story, I was tempted to summon up some lines of Patrick Kavanagh's, lines that speak about the drama of small lives set against great events:

"I have lived in important places, times / When great events were decided, who owned / That half a rood of rock, a no man's land / Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims...

"I inclined / To lose my faith in Balovrush and Gortin, / Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind. / He said: I made the Illiad from such /A local row. Gods make their own importance."

I am thinking of poetry, its role and relevance, because of the renewed debate about a Poet Laureate. Twice in the past fortnight, speculation about the Laureateship has graced the grubby pages of the daily press. Now a decent interval has passed since the death of Ted Hughes, the Prime Minister's adviser is taking soundings in the literary world. The latest speculation surrounds, rather improbably, the Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney.

Seamus Heaney is a native of Ireland's County Derry. His Protestant neighbours regard themselves as British: Seamus Heaney considers himself Irish. His name and cultural background are Irish and not British. He is notoriously opposed to being la-belled a British poet. Did he not write: "My passport's green, no glass of ours was ever raised to toast the Queen?" Is that message not clear enough for Downing Street?

Perhaps there are those who believe that the Laureateship can act as some kind of cultural bridge-builder, a device to stress the shared nature of our cultural experience on these islands. (That latter phrase is not me talking but what I imagine an arts minister would say in justifying the choice.) They can forget it. Seamus Heaney will never be Poet Laureate.

He means what he says when he points out that he is not British. Even suggesting that he be made Laureate represents a kind of trendy tokenism that insults the man's talent and his proudly felt sense of cultural identity. This is not a nationalist argument or a plea for cultural exclusivity. I loathe both concepts. It is just common sense. We would hardly instal a Russian or a German or a French poet as Laureate, would we?

If I were a British poet, I would find the notion of trawling outside Britain for a Poet Laureate vaguely insulting. Harrison and Fenton have ruled themselves out. But what about the excellent Simon Armitage? Young, accessible (a ghastly word, but you



FERGAL KEANE Poetry has always been a threatened creature.

Poets are not literary stars and sell few books

know what I mean) and - to truly delight New Labour - "relevant". Armitage would be my favourite. But if the Prime Minister's office is

looking for someone who will act as a symbol of a new, inclusive Britain, then they should look no further than Derek Walcott. He is not a Brit but he does belong to the commonwealth. He is linked in a very definite and tangible way to this island. And he writes of Britain as an insider/outsider, somebody who cherishes the language but who understands the nature of exclusion. Consider The Bright Field:

"My nerves steeled against the power of London, I hurried home that evening, with the sense we all have/ of the crowd's hypocrisy, to feel my rage turned on in self-defence, bear mercy for the anonymity/ of every self humbled by massive places, and I who moved against the bitter sea was moved by the light/ on Underground-

inevitable and perhaps unflattering manages to challenge and yet create comparisons with Ted Hughes. Hugh-es did not produce great public poet-For me the best of poetry combines es did not produce great public poetproduced for royal occasions were pleasant, but uninspiring. It was the greater body of his work, his "real" work, which invested the office of Laureate with a craggy nobility, Hughes will cast a long shadow. But to those who say there is no comparable poet

in Britain today, I say wait, give it time. The more fundamental argument is whether we need the Laureateship at all. It goes back to my first point. Is poetry that important, is it relevant enough to our lives to warrant preserving this national institution? There is an argument that our culture has fragmented to such a degree that the idea of honouring poetry - in its most conventional sense - is wrong. Why not have a "rock" laureate, a "performance art" laureate? My an-

swer is simple. Music and art are doing all right. Poetry has always been a threatened creature. With a few notable exceptions, poets live a hand-to-mouth existence. They sell few copies of their books; they travel the length and breadth of the country reading to bored schoolchildren in draughty schools; they are not literary "stars" in the manner of the big novelists or dramatists. It is a tough road.

The poets deserve better. You cannot create a mass market but by maintaining Laureateship you do at least make a statement about the importance of poetry as an art form. It is not a luxury, it is not solely the problems of the high-minded or the intellectual élite. Heaney, Armitage,

Whoever gets the job, there will be Walcott speak to us in language that

ry as Laureate. The verses he literary verve with subject and ideas that speak of the world I live in, the personal and the public world. Heaney has made the case that poetry can make things happen, that it represents an assertion of intellectual and spiritual freedom in a world of dictatorships and censorship where the mass media is increasingly obsessed with trivia. If liberation is concerned with ideas as much as it is about political structures, then who can doubt the role of Mandelstam and Pablo Neruda, among others? Their poetry transcended the brutal repression of their times. It offers a vision of freedom, tantalising but ultimately possible.

The Poet Laureate of Britain will write of a country that is, relatively speaking, prosperous and calm. Yet the issues of nationality and identity have never been more relevant. It will be a poet who can speak to the Scots and Welsh and English, who can speak to the people of Ulster, as somebody who feels part of the broader British community but understands the passion that conflict of identity can stir.

Perhaps the answer to the dilemma of the Laureateship is to make it a temporary post, to appoint a new Laureate every five or 10 years. If language itself is constantly evolving, why limit the job to the same person until their death?

I will finish with Heaney's words. He summed up his sense of the poet as someone journeying into "the heartland of the ordinary". "Still my old self," he wrote, "ready to knock one back. A 9-to-5 man who had seen poetry."

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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Chris Woodhead's gaffe • King Hussein of Jordan's Funeral • Oscar nominations • Death of Iris Murdoch • Restrictions in Gibraltar

CHRIS WOODHEAD'S GAFFE

Comment following the remark of the Chief Inspector of Schools about affairs between teachers and pupils

THE DAILY Telegraph

THE REASON for the emphasis given to Mr Woodhead's remark -Government proposals for a oneyear prison sentence for teachers and other "figures in authority who have sexual relationships with 16- or 17-year-olds in their care" - is the legislative equivalent of a knee-jerk response designed to appease the questioner. In his original comments. Mr Woodhead declared that human beings can get themselves into messes"; the furore his remarks created are proof enough of that. Government's readiness to create a dog's dinner by legislating without any apparent forethought.

THE GUARDIAN

CHRIS WOODHEAD stays. That is both proper and right. He will never be popular with teachers but that is no fault in a chief inspector. He could be more diplomatic, but better his bluntness than the discretion of earlier inspectors which helped cover up unacceptable faults. Woodhead's image is not all his own fault. He does praise teachers too. but that does not get reported.

DAILY MAIL

ON THE one hand Labour is arguing that boys of 16 are adult enough to make their own sexual choices; on the other hand it concedes that they can be exploited by adults and need protection. Yet when the Chief Inspector of Schools appears to suggest that teachers who have affairs with girl pupils need not be sacked there is a justifiable outcry. Truly we live in confusing times.

THE MIRROR

DESPITE BOTH making stupid comments, Glenn Hoddle and Chris Woodhead have suffered very different fates. In Hoddle's case, an illconsidered remark about the disabled cost him his job. Yet Woodhead is clinging on to his post as

despite his comments about teachers sleeping with pupils. The reason why one went and the other has stayed in easy to spot. It is because Tony Blair stuck his oar into the Hoddle row, but so far he has kept out of the Woodhead affair. For someone who claims that education is his top priority, his silence in the Woodhead affair is mystifying. This strange set of priorities comes only a few days after he attacked the media for focusing on trivial matters. In future, he would do well to look to his own record before making such accusations.

NEW STATESMAN

I HAVE no view on what Chris Woodhead's fate should be. But would his comments have been treated with such forbearance by Tony Blair if, instead of saying that sixth-formers should be sexually available to their teachers, he had said something genuinely irresponsible, such as calling for the abolition of the charitable status of private schools?

THE EXPRESS

MR WOODHEAD has battled against vested interests in the effort to improve standards. He has proven himself to be a man of courage and integrity who has fought for every child to receive a decent education. It has been tough but he does it because he values good education. That is what he should be judged on, not an off-the-cuff remark. Mr Woodhead has given a full explanation of himself and has apologised. If he is willing to display more reticence on issues other than the nuts and bolts of schooling, that should be the end of the matter.

THE SUN

DAVID BLUNKETT is right to back Chris Woodhead. The chief inspector of schools has been tireless in raising standards. His affair with a former pupil is ancient history. And he has admitted his remarks about teachers having relationships with pupils were wrong. Woodhead is other Glenn Hoddle.

An unrivalled array of power

JORDAN TIMES

THE SUPPORT and expressions of solidarity that Jordan has received on both the regional and the international fronts yesterday has certainly been reassuring. While Jordanians expressed their grief over the loss of His Majesty King Hussein, they equally rallied to pledge allegiance to his chosen heir, His Majesty King Abdul-lah. Both the Arab World and the interna-tional companyition wasted to time in tional communities wasted no time in demonstrating their support for Jordan in its moment of sadness. It can genuinely be said that King Hussein's legacy as the champion of peace humbled even the mighty yesterday as Jordan laid its King

THE NEW YORK TIMES

IN DEATH, King Hussein was able to do once more what he often did while living draw together divided men. What mattered in Amman was the keen emotion of the moment and, no less, the spectacle of seeing such an unrivaled array of powerful faces. Behind a military band and an honour guard, the extraordinary group walked together through the cold, bleached light of Amman. They did not succeed in giving the funeral pomp. They were captured instead by its silent, eloquent modesty, more powerful in its way than pomp could ever be.

THE NATION Pakistan

PRIME MINISTER Mian Nawaz Sharifs visit to Anıman, to pay homage to the late King Hussein of Jordan and join his fimeral procession along with heads of states, prime ministers and representatives of more than 40 countries, was an occasion of some political importance, not only because Pakistan has had a long history of friendship with Jordan, but also because it provided an opportunity to the Prime Minister to establish personal contacts with the new King. As happens on such occasions, however, with so many heads of other governments also being there, it was a golden opportunity to meet at least those aware of Pakistan's problems and ex-



KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN'S FUNERAL

International comment on the gathering of world leaders in Jordan to attend the funeral of King Hussein

resolving them.

TURKISH DAILY NEWS

DURING A period in which there are speculations about many kingdoms reaching their end, it is a significant accomplishment

change ideas with them about the ways of for a family to retain power in a country that is not their soil of origin and that was manufactured to fit a purpose. It is also a great success for a king to die in his sick bed after remaining in power for 46 long years, particularly in a region that experienced four major Arab-Israeli wars, one regional war and a series of clashes and

King Abdullah will sustain the success achieved by his father, and will receive the support of his uncle who, until only a week ago, thought he himself would be the one to assume the throne.

BAHRAIN TRIBUNE

KING HUSSEIN is dead. The world paid an unprecedented tribute to a man whose impact on the Middle East and on the world will be evident for some decades to come. The funeral procession was not pompous. It was not meant to be. What mattered was the emotions. The gathering of leaders and representatives was impressive. Most of them cherished memories of King Hussein in their hearts. Many had lukewarm relations with him. Nevertheless, they all wanted to pay homage to the man who, even in his death, could bring divided people together.

HERALD STANDARD

THE PRESENCE of four American presidents at Hussein's funeral was a dramatic demonstration of the respect the US had for Hussein, and the importance it attaches to Jordan as an ally. Jordan is more than an ally of convenience. There are strong ties with America; Abdullah attended prep school and college here; and the Jordanian people enjoy rights the US espouses. We are a generous benefactor of Jordan; and US diplomatic, financial and political support should be mustered to insure that King Abdullah is able to continue his father's policies. Jordan's origins may have been artificial, but it has become a very real and very positive presence in the Mideast.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

EVERYONE IN the Middle East - and in Washington, London and Moscow - was furious at Hussein at one time or another, but he proved as skillfully evasive as a hummingbird, always darting to safety just as the pressures of the day seemed about to overwhelm him. He stayed in power longer than any other Mideast ruler because of his unsurpassed ability to balance the comuprisings. Let's wait and see if the young peting pressures on him.

OSCAR NOMINATIONS

British views on the success of the British film industry in this year's nominations for the Academy Awards

THE SUN

THE OSCAR nominations may have been a huge hit for our actresses - but they are a slap in the face for the men. But for all that, it's still set to be a superb Oscars for the Brits. Way back in the middle of last year, everyone and their dog new the Best Picture nomination was always going to include Saving Private Ryan. But for Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love to make it is extraordinary considering the American competition they have seen off.

THE GUARDIAN

IF ANYONE is tempted on Oscar night to make another of those "the British are coming" speeches, please don't. The reason is simple. Yes, there is a heavy flow of films and other programming from Hollywood and, yes, the size of the USdomestic market helps explain the cost advantage American shows enjoy overseas. But

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

LE MONDE

France



rent. British Equity may apply some restriction on movement but the flight of actors and expertise in both directions runs thick and fast; witness the made-at-Pinewood battle scenes in Private Ryan. Nobody stands on Broadway and says the British are coming because they have been a strong force in US drama for ages.

DAILY TELEGRAPH It's shaping up as a good Oscar year for films made in Britain

 if not for British film. There is a difference. The nominations highlight the depth of talent among casts and crews here. Yet, for all its apparent Englishness, because of its financing, Shakespeare in Love can justifiably be called American. Its subject matter is quintessentially English. Most of its cast, director and co-writer are British. It was shot near London. But there is not a penny of British money in it.

DAILY MAIL

THE PHENOMENAL success of the British film Shakespeare In Love, in this age of supposedly "dumbed-down" public entertainment, seems remarkable. Who would have thought that a movie about an Elizabethan playwright, so often derided as "elitist" or "obscure" by our cultural leaders, would have secured no fewer than 13 Oscar nominations, including best film. (Leo McKinstry)

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

Australia

THE DEATH OF IRIS MURDOCH

COURIER TIMES

IRIS MURDOCH wrote with wit and flair about such difficult topics as murder, suicide, incest, blackmail, betrayal and the other strains love puts on morality. But in addition to her literary legacy, her later years made another difficult topic less taboo - Alzheimer's disease. Iris Murdoch and John Bayley have made Alzheimer's that much less of a taboo, and open discussion of a disease is a step toward its ultimate cure.

THE GUARDIAN

UK

Comment following the death of Dame Iris

Murdoch after suffering Alzheimer's disease

WE NEED to recall Iris's amazing strength: of artistic ideas, of invention, of charm and intelligence. Those are the things that those who knew her will remember most about her. And they are all there in the marvellous storehouse of her novels, covering so many characters, so many lives, so many

affairs, so many fantasies, and so many years - to which we

should now do well to return.

THE SUN UK

(Malcolm Bradbury)

WRITER DAME Iris Murdoch dies at 79. Her husband, John Bayley, might fear ordinary folk will forget her quickly. But he would be wrong. Britain still treasures its writers. And she was one of our finest.

THE TIMES UK

JORDAN'S NEW MAN ON THE SPOT

HET PAROOL

Netherlands

A QUIET exit like Iris's is the trend. It was typical of the mod-est Iris Murdoch that on her death she didn't want any fuss. No grand funeral or aggrandising memorial. A philosopher, intellectual, acclaimed novelist, she had no doubt considered the manner of her passing and decided she would like to go quietly. (Vanora Bennett)

RESTRICTIONS IN GIBRALTAR

Spanish comment on Britain's reaction to restrictions on travel to and from Gibraltar

EL PAIS

LACK OF results from a constructive policy on Gibraltar has pushed the Spanish Government into taking extreme measures to restrict the parasitic economy of the Rock, and the lives of those who live there. It's not a case of bending the willpower of the Gibraltarians, but of smashing it. But the problem is not only the Rock, it's also London.

ABC

THE BRITISH Government's protest against the measures adopted by Spain over Gibraltar are simply repeating an old error. An error which it now plans to take to the European Union. If Britain values supranational institutions so highly, it shouldn't underrate the United Nations General Assembly's clear doctrine on the legal need to decolonise the last, anachronistic bastion of colonialism on the continent of Eu-

wishes - artificial and heavily influenced - of the Gibraltarians, shine the UN's repeated declarations. It's the Spanish Government which has rea-

rope. People who live in glass

houses shouldn't throw stones.

Through the false British ar-

gument, always based on the

son to protest against Britain. and to take any necessary action against it.

EL MUNDO

SOME BRITISH MPs have asked Tony Blair to send the Navy to Gibraltar. What for? To protect the Gibraltarians against landings by Spanish fishermen who want to take the monkeys hostage until London agrees to revoke the Treaty of Utrecht? It's ridiculous. What's at stake now has nothing to do with grand questions of principle, but with the strange state in which the Rock exists. defying not only the oldest agreements, but also the most current Community law.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

DETROIT NEWS "There's no there there," said

Gertrude Stein, referring to Los Angeles. With the demolition of the old Hudson's building, it's pretty clear that "downtown" Detroit has no there there, either. The urban center is empty, and tumble-weeds blow down the avenues. But a dynamic region has to have some downtown, somewhere. So if "downtown" Detroit isn't downtown anymore, where is it? Some would argue Metro Detroit has no there at all. They come in from cities with a lot of there in their downtowns - and don't see any THERE at the riverfront and figure that

huge downtown, but it's scattered all over the place.

POTTSDOWN MERCURY

WHEN THE members of the school's student board decide to "clean up" a neighborhood, they really clean it up. About 12 of them were on hand to clean up the former site of a funeral home. There were no drug dealers in sight in the violent area as students cleaned. What was in evidence was the product traded with such deadly frequency on the corner. Asked what kind of drugs they found, one junior said "I don't there probably isn't any. But know, stuff. I guess we don't they are wrong. Detroit has a know our drugs very well."

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I can sit rhapsodising about a single strand. I can tell exactly who has styled a photoshoot, just from the way a curl is placed." Nicku Clarke (pictured). hairdresser to the

"I can't speak in sound bites. I refuse to repeat slogans. I hate focus groups. I absolutely hate image consultants. Kenneth Clarke Former Tory Chancellor

"It was all too much. so I'm the white wine queen again." Lowri Turner, TV presenter on an attempt to give up drinking

"I am not going to be a nagging bag. I am here to make him happy. Victoria Adams. Spice Girl, on her fiance David

Beckham "I hope some other mother would do for my daughter what I did for Monica."

Lindo Tripp "This marks an end of the something-fornothing welfare State '

Tony Blair, Prime Minister

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Foul play on the sleeper to Fort William

هكذامن الأجل

point - you wouldn't get a word in edgeways. I collect nightmare train journeys as other people collect beer-mats and while my sympathy genuinely goes out to the woman who took 18 hours and five changes to get from Macclesfield to Eastbourne last week (though why anyone should chose to make such a recherché journey I can't say), compared to my litany of disasters

she was joy-riding.
I see ScotRail came out pretty well in the latest rail league tables for punctuality and reliability. Never mind punctuality and reliability, what about availability? It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a harassed mother with a family railcard to book four sleepers to

DON'T TALK to me about train Fort William I know because I have journeys from hell. There's no been trying to do this for three been trying to do this for three weeks ever since the fisherman who lives down the road from our holiday house on an island in Loch Linnhe telephoned to say that our roof was blowing off.

When we started building the house seven years ago, you could jump on the sleeper to Fort William as easily, probably more easily than jumping on a number 11 bus. Now the Aberdeen, Fort William and inverness sleepers have all been lumped together into one long train which, like the manyheaded Hydra, divides somewhere west of Edinburgh in the small hours of the morning leaving just one solitary sleeping car to trundle away to the West Highlands.

It doesn't even have a luggage van anymore. Bicycles, backpacks,



SUE ARNOLD

Even the sheep turned nasty, demanding free champagne with their complimentary dinner

cat-basket - they all have to go into your sleeper with you. None of this matters because taking the sleeper to Fort William has to be one of the

earth. The discomfort of climbing over two mountain bikes to get to the basin to brush your teeth palls into insignificance when you gaze out of the window at Monassie Gorge or the snow-capped peaks of Aonach Mór.

There is an alternative if the Fort William sleeper is full. You can get the Virgin West Coast sleeper to Glasgow and continue your journey by bus or local train. You can, but if I were you, I wouldn't. I did it one summer and bear the scars to this day. We were coming back from the island. We had taken the post-bus to the ferry, the ferry to Oban, the Sprinter to Glasgow and having fortified ourselves with fish suppers at The Blue Lagoon, we were now, at 10.30pm, ready to board the train at Glasgow Central.

doors invitingly open, buffet car already full of late-night tipplers.

Then came the announcement. The sleeper had been cancelled. We would all be put up at the Station Hotel and flown to London in the morning. Why had it been cancelled? No one seemed to know. There was dark talk of foul play in a siding at Watford Gap. There was darker talk that there simply weren't enough passengers to justify running a whole sleeper to Euston.

All told we numbered around 20 and immediately polarised into two groups, sheep and goats. The sheep said they'd go to the hotel, the goats said they wouldn't. It was now midnight. The hotel would include complimentary dinner, breakfast and use of the gym. The Virgin

"What about women?" someone shouted. The goats stood firm, One of them had telephoned the Watford Gap siding and discovered there was no foul play. Virgin just didn't want to run the train. Tempers rose, the kids in the party were curied up

on the platform asleep. Even the sheep were turning nasty, demanding free champagne with their complimentary dinner and free facials in the morning. Never mind facials, what about fulfilling their statutory obligations and getting us to London on the

sleeper? shouted the goats. In the end we compromised. Virgin would take us to London but not on that particular train. No, it wouldn't exactly be a sleeper but they would give us free tea and coffee and half-bottles of wine to

make up for any inconvenience. At 2.45am a very old, very shabby train shambled slowly up to platform one. You could see the driver wiping the grime from the windscreen. You could write your name in the dust on the tables. We were issued with blankets, the heating wasn't working, and shortly before 3am we inched our way slowly south out of Glasgow Central.

"I wish you'd all stop knocking Virgin," said a man I know who designs greenhouses. "I took the Virgin cross-country from Haslemere to Learnington Spa the other day and it was brilliant - dead on time, trolley service." Haslemere to Leamington Spa? Macclesfield to Eastbourne? No wonder the Virgin West Coast Line isn't up to scratch. They have just got too

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

RHODRI MORGAN, MP FOR CARDIFF WEST

The clown prince of Wales

THE PROBLEM with Rhodri Morgan is that in which agricultural workers disguised he has failed the Hyacinth Bucket test in BBC's Keeping Up Appearances. Impeccably middle-class he might be but, un-forgivably he is an intellectual, he is often informally dressed and he is clearly not English - unsurprising, in view of the fact that he is standing for election next Saturday as leader of the Labour Party in Wales, and hence First Secretary in the Welsh Assembly.

The final nail in his political coffin, as far as Hyacinth is concerned, however, is that his house near Cardiff is an absolute tip. It looks as if its contents have been arranged by a small explosive device.

Most days chez Morgan there is a liberal sprinkling of books, papers and boxes - sometimes there are even half-eaten comestibles. His wife Julie, a feminist and MP for Cardiff North, certainly does not believe it is her function to resort to the feather duster any more than Morgan does.

New Labour does not approve of this. They might venture - in fact, they do - that Morgan's chaotic approach to matters domestic is a symptom of his harum enition marens

Alun Michael, who Tony Blair and his apparatchiks have decided to support, is a different kettle of fish entirely. Neat house, neat clothes, neat mind. As one Labour activist in Abercynnon, south-east Wales says: "If you put a pound in Alun's slot, you'll get a quid's worth out. If you put a pound in Rhodri's slot, you might hit the jackpot or you might get bugger all back."

New Labour has a problem in its attempt to suppress the unsound Morgan. Every time members of the Party and unions in Wales are asked who they want to lead Labour in the principality, Morgan turns out to be the man by a significant margin. The only votes being secured by Michael are coming from union activists in proverbial smoke-filled rooms, and from MPs who are operating under the New Labour whip. It is a profound embarrassment to the Blair camp, and it may prove to be a fatal weakness in the longer term, even if Michael manages to be elected.

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Despite his origins in north Wales, Michael is unable to shake off the image as someone who has alighted from a silken parachute with Millbank printed on it, Morgan, in comparison, is seen as the homegrown candidate with the necessary touch of south Walesian extroversion.

The Prime Minister has been to Wales three times recently to show his support of Michael but it is becoming counterproductive. Unlike the Mrs Buckets of this world, the Welsh feel they do not need to be wooed, cajoled and told how to vote. Many of them quite simply resent it.

Resentment was not a foreign emotion to Morgan's ancestors, who were a restless and rather colourful clan. Indeed, at one stage, they combined radical political action with cross-dressing. One of them, Morgan Morgan of Pontardulais, was one of the leaders of the Rebecca riots of 1840

themselves as women and smashed up toll gates erected by private companies and landowners. Rhodri went to the trouble of taking his extended family on a visit to the area, where he explained their turbulent provenance. Rhodri's father was largely unaffected

by the insurrectional gene. He was a teacher of Welsh at the University of Wales at Cardiff, and later he switched to the Swansea campus where he became vice-Principal. His mother, who is now in her nineties, was among the first women to attend Swansea University.

LIFE STORY

Origins: Born 29 September 1939, in Cardiff.

Education: St John's College. Oxford (BA philosophy, politics. economics) and Harvard University (master's degree in Government). Political Career: Elected Labour MP for Cardiff West in 1987. Made Opposition spokesman on energy In 1988 and was front-bench spokesman on Welsh affairs 1992-

97. Appointed chairman of Select Committee on Public Administration 1997.

Family: Married Julie Morgan. MP for Cardiff North, in 1967. Three children: two daughters, Mari born 1968 and Siani, 1969. One adopted son, Stuart. Supporters

say: "He's the people's choice. Critics say: "He is very amusing. very knowledgeable, but he suffers from verbal incontinence." Hobbies: Wood carving, longdistance running.

Mari, the elder of Morgan's two daughters, is a research scientist, and her sister, Siani, works for Shelter, the housing charity. The family tends to close ranks around Morgan's adopted son Stuart, who was charged with living off immoral earnings in 1988, burglary a year later, and then supplying cannabis. He is now studying at

the University of Glamorgan. A fluent Welsh speaker, Rhodri grew up in Radyr on the outskirts of the principality's capital, where his family imbued him with a taste for learning. He is by no means the typical south Wales boyo of English legend – not one of the valley boys whose fathers worked down the pit, but who strug-

gled to send their children to university. Morgan is part of Wales's meritocratic aristocracy - or crachach to use the slightly pejorative Welsh word.

Nevertheless, he went to the local primary school - the Welsh upper-middle class has never taken to fee-paying schools to the same extent as the English. Performing wonders in the 11-plus examination, he secured a place at Whitchurch grammar school, where he cheerfully boasts to having been top, or near top, in most subjects except science.

Rhodri's introduction to politics was somewhat gentler than that experienced by the hosts of Rebecca, but none the less cathartic. At the age of 11 he insisted that his mother take him to a political meeting near their home. There he witnessed a local female Labour supporter being reduced to tears by a crowd of public school Tory thugs. "I remember thinking, Trn going to nail those bastards"," he says.

He waited some time before avenging the poor woman. He was very much a latestarter as far as full-time politics were concerned. He went up to Oxford and thence ter's degree in government. In common with Neil Kinnock, he spent some time as a Workers' Education Association lecturer in south-east Wales, sharing a flat with that other great Welsh political extrovert who failed to win the approval of the English.

Morgan worked as an industrial development officer for south Glamorgan county council for six years from 1974, and he was then the European community's representative in Wales from 1980 to 1987, when he was elected MP for Cardiff West. It has not gone unnoticed that he has chosen to live just outside the constituency. Although his political patch is "mixed", it contains some of the toughest council estates in Wales, suffering from all the usual problems of the inner city. In fact, Morgan lives in Michaelstone Le Pit, Wales's an-

He has a deserved reputation for wit, although self-deprecation is not usually an ingredient. The appointment of Thatcherite John Redwood as Secretary of State for Wales seemed to be a legitimate target for satire. The decision by the Conservative Government was actually seen by Morgan - and the few Welsh people who cared to give it a minute's thought - as a practical joke.

On hearing the announcement, Morgan immediately challenged the Welsh Secretary to pronounce the longest place name in Britain: Llanfairpwilgwyngyllgogerychwymdrobwlllantysiliogogogoch. Redwood was given three days to master the word, but preferred to ignore the challenge. Redwood caused Morgan to shake with uncontrollable laughter when he at-tempted to sing the Welsh national anthem, and instead performed a serviceable imitation of a river trout.



Mr Morgan at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff, a proposed site for the new Welsh Assembly

derlined when he was asked last year will testify to the potentially damaging na- and European affairs. But the one policy whether he would be standing in the election to become leader of the Labour Party lieved that his chairmanship of the in Wales: "Do one-legged ducks swim in a

circle?" he replied. The bonhomie is currently masking deep disappointment - some would say bitterness - over the fact that Tony Blair failed to give him a ministerial post after Labour won the general election. Morgan was part of the team shadowing Tory Welsh Office ministers and should have passed seamlessly into government. He was given the chairmanship of the Commons Committee on Public Administration as a consolation prize. Morgan's life hitherto had been effortless, according to his detractors, un-

marred by any significant public failure. Even Morgan's enemies in Wales say Blair was wrong. "If ever there was a case of when it was better to have someone in the tent pissing out, this was it," said one of his critics. The detractor went on to damn him with faint praise by suggesting that a junior ministerial post would be quite taxing enough for his political skills.

His chairmanship of the Commons committee has not enhanced his reputation at Westminster. He is regarded as

ture of such criticisms. Observers becommittee allowed Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, to emerge largely unscathed from a hearing into the legitimacy of his private briefings to journalists. Old Westminster hands, most of whom do like him, accuse him of being chaotic. He is often late for appointments, turning up with at least two bags, one of which will be full of papers and the other overflowing with sports gear. Morgan combines a liking for woodcarving with

a regime of ruthless jogging.
A spell as deputy to Tony Blair as an opposition energy spokesman finally cast him into outer darkness from New Labour's point of view. The two men simply could

While there is a significant difference between Morgan and Michael in terms of personality, there is not an ha'porth of difference between their political philosophies. Both are right-wingers in Labour's terms, although Morgan has never really been a cheerleader for the New Labour project. "If I use the phrase 'new Labour' it is with a small 'n'," he says.

His main political interests lie in regional development, health, the environment

that causes a flutter in the New Labour dove-cotes is his preoccupation with freedom of information. The "control freaks" at London Labour Party headquarters find it most worrying. Predictably, it was a policy much-trumpeted by Labour in opposition, but rarely referred to these days. Morgan intends to pursue a relentless policy of glasnost as soon as he is in a position to do so.

Morgan is also a quango-phobe who has hounded those in semi-official positions who have feasted themselves on public money. "There are more quangos in Cardiff than gondolas in Venice," he has remarked, and be is determined to set about a cull. It is an attitude that has not endeared him to the great and the good in Wales, but strikes a chord with the electorate.

The election is difficult to predict, but come what may, Morgan will not go away. There is even a contingency plan afoot to form a coalition of Morganites and Plaid Cymru representatives at the Assembly who would vote Michael out and The Unsound One in. Morgan will follow the injunction of Dylan Thomas and refuse to "go gentle into that good night".

BARRIE CLEMENT

vive a movie that requires her to writhe around under the overcooked direction of Ken Russell. For Glenda Jackson the shame was clearly so great she became an MP But Ann-Margret, who - for no immediately apparent reason - is made to disport herself in a bath-tub of baked beans In Russell's ineffable version of The Who's Tommy in 1975, came through the experience with her customary

serenity. It may have helped that Ann-Margret was not without a bit of previous in the writhing department. In 1966, she made a comedy called The Suringer, in which she played the author of a racy autobiography. Because the Hollywood version of the Swinging Sixties - created by bald-

IT ISN'T every actress who can suring paunchy movie producers who were not particularly swinging but often sixty - usually involved the casual humiliation of women, Ann-Margaret became a human paintbrush, at one point covering herself in paint and wriggling around on a blank canvas.

At the age of 25, Ann-Margret's career was believed to be in terminal decline. Yet a few years earlier Ann-Margret Olsson, who came to America from her native Sweden as a child, was America's teen sweetheart. The Theatre Owners of America voted her Star of the Year in 1964 after her success in Viva Las Vegas opposite Elvis, the most provocative partner Presley ever had and the only one with whom you could believe he actually slept.

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

27: ANN-MARGRET, ACTOR

but her biography, Ann-Morgret: My Story, is full of tasteful fades leaving us no closer to knowing how far she and the King went. A similarly discreet veil is pulled over her relationships with other early Sixties heavy hitters, including John F

Kennedy and Frank Sinatra. Kennedy certainly saw her as a replacement for Marilyn Monroe. In Margret's future.

He may very well have done in 1963, the year after Marilyn's fafact. They certainly had a romance, mously breathy Happy Birthday Mr President, JFK chose Ann-Margret to pay him a similar tribute. There were also other parallels between the two actresses; unsuitable men, alcohol, and prescription drugs.

With her career reduced by the late Sixties to Italian potboilers, barely exhibited in America, you would not have staked much on Ann-

men miserable. Many a big game hunter has had better luck with lions than with this tantalizing tigress." On screen she returned triumphantly in Carnal Knowledge in 1971, the first really serious movie

ilyn was. An article in an early Six-

ties fan-mag hints at the steel behind

the pout. "Ann-Margret sweeps men

off their feet," the writer gushes. "She

goes on breaking hearts and making

Nicholson's ill-used mistress.

She married Roger Smith, an dured more than 30 years, with the Spice Girls.

But Ann-Margret re-wrote the Smith acting as her agent and lookscript. She refused to be used and ing out for her like a mother hen. abused by men in the way that Mar-

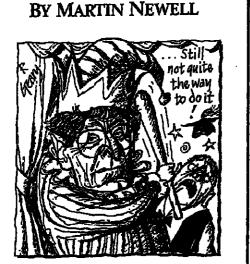
She has never wanted for work. Superior TV movies are what she does mostly these days, including a biography of Pamela Harriman, former wife of Randolph Churchill and so-called "courtesan of the century". who triumphed as her own woman after her last husband died, and was appointed American ambassador to France.

The story is not a million miles away from Ann-Margret's, a trishe had ever done, with a moving umph not so much over adversity as display of vulnerability as Jack over tacky bad taste, and the bad judgement of men in the face of a pair of breasts and a sweet smile. actor from the television show 77 Like Harriman, Ann-Margret Sunset Strip, a marriage that has en- thought of Girl Power long before



THE WEASEL

After negotiating some well-endowed ladies of the art world, I was surprised to observe mass hanky panky in a Scarborough car park



THE WEEKLY MUSE

Slyly fall the flakes of snow And dust the car tops patchy white, A wimpy, disappointing snow For those who like the change in light And kids who sleigh in sleep all night.

Put out a call for Desperate Dan, He may well come in handy. The racist accusations fly And fall upon... The Dandy. The Irish claim it's not PC -A new boy on their pages, "O'Diddle", who's a leprechaun Accused of fresh outrages. He makes the race seem stupid, Which has fanned the situation From flight of silly nonsense To a larger conflagration. A hugely rated race of poets, The Irish take all credit. The Dandy, though? I'd no idea So many of them read it.

And Ofsted in the news again... Unfortunate position, Police to their profession Or a type of Inquisition? Let's go and ask a teacher On edge of nervous breakdown, Poised between the paperwork And bureaucratic shake-down: "There's something in the Woodhead – Or should they make him go?" I'm sorry, didn't hear you, Was that a yes or no?

His favourite colour's purple, His handbag's red and patent: Is Tinky Winky closet? It's possible he's blatant, Says Reverend Jerry Falwell, Who's issuing a warning To guard all US children From "Eh-oh" in the morning. Sounds good to me, old fruit-bat, So here's the deal we'll make: We'll keep our Teletubbies And you keep Ricki Lake.

The lion and the unicorn Were in the Rose and Crown. "You realise," the Lion remarked, "That cig sales may go down. The By Appointment logo On packets means a lot." "Yeah, right," the Unicorn replied. "D'you wanna fag, or what?"

HOW I wish the National Gallery would abandon the audio guides it provides for special exhibitions. Negotiating the throng at the deservedly popular Ingres show is tough enough without the additional hazard of plugged-in spectators obeying the commands of their earpieces. With whirling CDs bizarrely dangling over their hearts, these sad souls resemble the robots in the movie Metropolis. Deprived of free will, they barge like dodgems into anyone in their path. When going to view the works of Ingres, a close encounter with well-endowed ladies is

only to be expected, but it's a bit much

when this takes the form of the balcon

formudable of a middle-aged art-lover.
The aristos and haute bourgeoisie portrayed by Ingres have attained a sort of immortality through the brush and pencil of the master, but there is a price to be paid. It is doubtful if his subjects would be entirely pleased with the captions which accompany their portraits. We learn a contemporary opinion of the rather dopey-looking Lady Bentinck: "What a good natured, potato-headed woman she is." Similarly, the note accompanying the daunting Countess de Tournon points out: "Her plain features are in no way idealised, indeed recent conservation has uncovered a mole on the bridge of her nose which an earlier restorer had touched out." However, no caption is required to draw attention to the vhiskers of Madame Genevieve Bertin (the drawing appears in the catalogue but not the exhibition). As if appended by a particularly talented graffiti artist. her moustache is plain for all to see.

But how wonderfully the world of art has advanced in the 131 years since Ingres passed on to the heavenly academy. This was forcibly impressed on me by an item in a magazine last week which offered "Five artists to invest in". These artistic naps include a "high conceptualist" called Martin Creed, described as "an oasis of purity in a messy world". The work we are

urged to buy is entitled A Sheet of A4 Paper Crumpled into a Ball (£150). I, in fact, have some empathy with this masterpiece. Before I invested in a computer 15 years ago. I produced numerous examples of a similar nature, often accompanied by an outpouring of profanities (the indubitable hallmark of a great creator). But since becoming adept with the "delete" key, I fear I have lost the art.

I AM loathe to query such a doughty defender of civil liberties as Geoffrey Robertson QC, but I was stopped in my tracks by a statement in his memoir, The Justice Game. After recalling the manifold absurdities of the Oz trial, Mr Robertson barks back to another foray against the monstrous forces of oppression: his successful defence of the Sex Pistols against a charge of indecency concerning the title of their hit waxing, Never Mind the Bollocks. Here's the Sex Pistols. Mr Robertson recalls how he was "enlisted to defend a particularly polite and studious young university graduate who sung under the sobriquet of Johnny Rotten".

It is not the description of Mr Rotten as "polite and studious" which raised my eyebrows, for he always strikes me as being a sensible, if pungently opinionated chap when I see him on the box. However, the idea of him being anything so staid as a university graduate will surely prompt many an ageing punk to shake their thinning mohicans in shocked disillusion.



They needn't worry. In his own memoir, No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs, Mr Rotten describes how he dropped out of the education system prior to A levels, despite a fondness for English literature, in particular the works of Ted Hughes, Wilde and Shakespeare. Probably it's as well that Mr R packed in his studies, otherwise academic pedantry might have constrained his memorable rhyming of "the Queen" with "fascist regime".

DISPLAYING THE customary American knowledge of the world beyond the continental US, a leading stateside movie website offers the following synopsis of Little Voice: "An otherwise mute Londoner becomes an overnight sensation with her gift for vocal mimicry." Of course, this enjoyable film is very much set in Scarborough. Though Brenda Blethyn richly deserves her

Oscar nomination for her furious portrayal of Jane Horrocks' uniquely horrible mum, I think it's a pity that the great Yorkshire resort didn't also receive a nomination. Admittedly, I may be a trifle biased because Weasel Villas North is just 10 miles away.

Mrs Weasel and I kept nudging each other throughout the film as we spotted familiar sights. There was Michael Caine driving his lipstick-red gas-guzzler past the Futurist Theatre where I forced Mrs W to see Ken Dodd last year. The exterior of Jim Broadbent's sleazy nightchub turned out to be at Cayton Bay, where Charlotte Bronte once romped before it became a caravan camp.

But the most outstanding scene utilised the car park at Scarborough's fish dock, where Mr Caine and Ms Blethyn tested the suspension of his vehicle with a spot of extra-mural coupling. ("Under the bloody stars," as Ms Blethyn poetically describes it.) In fact, the film revealed a whole row of cars bouncing and creaking in this romantic milieu. It came as a surprise to me. Though this is the spot where I park when purchasing stocks of crus-

tacea from the shellfish stalls near by there's always been more haddock than hanky-panky whenever I've been there.

AS YOU read this, Mrs W and self should be enjoying a weekend in Lille. "A busy textile town in the 19th century" my Hachette guide informs me, with an urban proletariat whose wretched conditions were immortalised by Victor Hugo." Tempting, eh? We were prompted to hop across to northern France by the £99-for-two special offer currently being advertised by Eurostar. A rare coup for the Weasels, I gloated, until I hacked my way through the thicket of small print at the bottom of the offer. Sure, it's £99 unless you want to come back on a Sunday, in which case the price is jacked up to £119. Grrr!

SALAN S

However, I bucked up after reading a line of even smaller print which pointed out that this increase applies only to cosmopolitan types returning from the fleshpots of Paris and Brussels. Hayseeds who venture no further than Lille still only cough up £99 when returning on Sundays. Hurray! Bless you, Eurostar. Except, a further infinitesimal proviso caught my eye. The offer didn't apply from 12-14 February which is when we had to travel. "The cheapest you can do it this weekend is £152.40 for two," trilled a Eurostar salesperson. Grrr!

On receiving the tickets, I discovered that this includes £14.40 insurance, which I didn't ask for, but it would be tempting fate to cancel. All aboard for the sucker's special!

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

At the altar of the atheists.

of Methodist Central Hall, in central London, where this week his hero entered into a debate entitled "Has Science Killed the Soul?7. Richard Dawkins, the professor of the public understanding of science at Oxford University, drew a crowd of 2,300 to hear him talk with his fellow neo-Darwinist, the American evolutionary psychologist Stephen Pinker.

However, there was no irony at all. The vast hall opposite Westminster Abbey was built in 1912 for evangelical rallies. And that was precisely what the great audience was here for - to celebrate a new faith in which neuroscience is the new metaphysic and doubt the new dogma. "The seats are "Just find your own." Here the survival of the fittest was the code for life.

It was not much of a debate, it has to be said, for Dawkins and Pinker, as is so often the way with high priests, pretty much agreed with everything the other said. But that didn't matter "The truth is not always to be found somewhere midway between two adversaries. When two people agree there is always the possibility that we might both be right," Dawkins chuckled. He did not seem to countenance the opposite possibility.

Has science killed the soul? If by that we mean what he called Soul L the answer was yes. The idea that we have a spiritual immortal part of ourselves 2 - the intellectual, aesthetic and artistic power within us - then science has awoken great new possibilities there.

Pinker was less elegant but gave more sense of thinking as he went along. He was also more radical. The mind is not animated by a godly vapour, it is, like the Apollo spacecraft, an enormously complex device crammed with other complex devices. But there is nothing in it beyond a collection of chemical interactions. The mind is just the physiological activity of the brain, there is no ghost in the machine. The complexity of human thinking is reflected by the 3 trillion synapses in the brain. But they were made not by God but by the processes unnumbered," said the ticket collector. of evolution. When part of the brain is destroyed - by a bullet or by Alzheimer's - part of the person goes.

Even Dawkins had trouble here. "You say it's an illusion that the mind is a single entity, Steve," he began, picking up on Pinker's notion that the mind is a whole load of processes which are distinct and often pull in different directions. How could this be? Pinker wasn't sure but was certain that finding out was only a matter of time. When science fully explained consciousness, sometime next century, then "Soul 1 will be finally killed off", Dawkins said.

Hang on, said a questioner from the floor, isn't that like saying that a TV programme is created by the innards of a TV set, when we all know that it is are into the problem of making cate-

"WHAT AN irony," puffed a Dawkins-ite, science has shown to be "circular and in reality projected from somewhere as he walked into the vast auditorium non-productive". But if we meant Soul outside? Dawkins, in response, told a daft joke about little men inside the TV but failed to address the substantive point that science can't explain the subjective side of life.

It was, he said, just a cheap debating trick to say that what science can't explain can be explained by some other discipline. Perhaps it can't be explained at all. God is just a product of the human desire for perceiving patterns, which was programmed into us because it helped human survival but which, if not checked, makes us gullible suckers-up of New Age nonsense or the established religions, which are the same thing, only older.

But religion, suggested another questioner from the floor, does also offer consolation to the troubled. Science can't do that. No, said Dawkins, but who wants to be comforted by a falsehood? Surely it makes it all the more worthwhile to get up in the morning and use our brief time on the planet to try to understand what life is all about. He was just grateful to be alive, he said, to his biggest round of applause of the evening

Grateful to whom he did not specify. The problem for atheists is that they are trapped in centuries of theistically conceptualised language, as is evident when they seem unable to find an alternative word for the "design" of

things in nature. Pinker, no doubt, would here say we



Richard Dawkins, the high priest of evolutionary theory

ory mistakes. It is like asking "What like?" or "What was there before the finite universe?". Such questions make no sense - they are mismatches. "It's not a problem of science," said Pinker. 'It's a problem of how we feel."

That does not make the problem, for us humans, any less real, I felt as I came away. Dawkins and Pinker may be, as they were billed, the two great storytellers of modern science. But their yarns, while good on description, are a bit short on plot, and there is something barren and desolate about the landscape in which they are set.

Science and psychology may have does a four-dimensional object look killed off God 1 - the old bloke with the beard, the performer of magic who is Big Bang?" or "What's outside the a superhuman extrapolation from the limits of the single human form. But what about God 2 - the mysterious abstraction, the unknowable summation of the wisdom of mankind throughout the world and throughout the ages, the ground of our being?

The discoveries of science only magnify rather than diminish such a God. In the face of which, of course, the apt response is not smug uncertainty so much as an open humility. And there did not seem to be an awful lot of that around this week in Central Hall.

DAYS LIKE THESE

14 FEBRUARY 1831

FELIX MENDELSSOHN, composer (pictured), Heinrich Barmann, from Rome:

"In the last few days there has been the crazy carnival; the place swarmed with the craziest masks, the Italian women are at their most brilliant, people throw confetti at one another like mad, nosegays of roses and violets are thrown to the ladies in their carriages, and they reward one with a shower of bonbons and sugared almonds; the men have flour thrown at them till they look like miller's apprentices; but unfortunately the last three days, when everything is at its maddest, were lost for us.

"The day before yesterday, when I arrived on the Corso with a load of confetti. I found the whole street black with men, no ladies, not a mask to be seen, and at last I discovered, posted up at a corner, a papal edict proclaiming that the carnival was over because of



inauspicious circumstances; in other words they claimed to have discovered a revolution, and soldiers with loaded guns had been posted in all the streets; that evening a few shots were actually fired, people were arrested, one man badly wounded. So the fun changed to bitter earnest; and although the fasting doesn't begin until the day after tomorrow, the streets are already silent."

19 February 1838

HENRI BEYLE,

"I shall tell you frankly.

monsieur, that to write a

better known as the novelist Stendhal, writes to a friend:

book which has the luck to find four thousand readers, 1. Study French for two years in books written before 1700. I except only the Marquis de Saint-Simon; 2. Study the truth of the ideas in Bentham or

Helvétius's L'Esprit and in a hundred and one volumes of memoirs: Gourville, Mme de Motteville, d'Aubigné etc. In a novel, from the second page onwards, one must say something new or

at least individual. concerning the setting of the action. From the sixth page onwards, or at the latest from the eighth, there must be adventures. The newly rich lend energy to good society, just as the Barbarians did in the 11th century to what was left of Rome. We are very far from the insipidity of the reign of Louis XVI. At that time the style of narration could be more important than the contents; today the

opposite is true. Read the trial of Gilles de Laval, maréchal de Rais, at the Royal Library. Invent adventures of equal energy." IAN IRVINE

The cause of a civilised Europe

WE BEHOLD a country inferior in population to most of her continental neighbours, but multiplying her faculties and resources by her own activity and enterprise, by the vigour of her constitution, and by the good sense of her people; we behold her, after standing up against a formidable foe throughout a contest, in the course of which every one of her allies, and at times all of them together have fainted and failed - nay, have been driven to combine with the enemy against her - we behold her, at this moment, rallying the nations of Europe to one point, and

leading them to decisive victory. If such a picture were the bright vision of speculative philosophy, if it were presented in the page of history of ancient times, it would stir and warm the heart. But, gentlemen, this country is our own; and what must be the feelings which arise, on such a review, in the bosom of every son of that country?

One of the most delightful poets of this country, in describing the various proportions of natural blessings and advantages dispensed by Providence to the various nations of Europe, turns from the luxuriant plains and cloudless skies of Italy to the rugged mountains of Switzerland, and inquires whether there also, in those barren and stormy regions, the "patriot passion" is found equally imprinted on the heart? He decides the question truly in the



CLASSIC PODIUM

From a speech delivered in Liverpool by George Canning, the former foreign secretary, on Britain's mission to rid Europe of despotism (10 JANUARY 1814)

affirmative; and he says of the inhabitant of those bleak wilds: "Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,

And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms: And, as a child, when scaring sounds molest Clings close and closer to the

mother's breast.

So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar, But bind him to his native mountains more."

What Goldsmith thus beautifully applied to the physical varieties of soil with respect to political institutions. A sober desire of improvement, a rational endeavour to redress error, and to correct imperfection in the political frame of human society, are not only natural, but laudable in man.

Can any man now look back upon the trial which we have gone through, and maintain that, at any period during the last 20 years, the plan of insulated policy could have been adopted, without having in the event, at this day, prostrated this England at the foot of a conqueror? Great, indeed, has been the call upon our exertions; great, indeed, has been the drain upon our resources; long and wearisome has the struggle been; and late is the moment at which peace is finally brought within our reach.

But even though the difficulties of the contest may have been enhanced, and its duration protracted by it, yet is there any man who seriously doubts whether the having associated our des-tinies with the destinies of other nations be or be not that which, under the blessing of Providence, has eventually se-

cured the safety of all? For myself, gentlemen, while I

rejoice in your returning prosperity, I rejoice also that our connection began under auspices so much less favourable; that we had an opportunity of knowing each other's minds, in times when the minds of men are and climate has been found no less true brought to the proof - in times of trial and difficulty.

I had the satisfaction of avowing to you, and you the candour and magnanimity to approve, the principles and opinions by which my public conduct has uniformly been guided.

I thought, and I said, at the time of our first meeting, that the cause of Eng-iand and of civilised Europe must be ultimately triumphant, if we but preserved our spirit untainted and our constancy unshaken. Such an assertion was, at that time, the object of ridicule with many persons: a single year has elapsed, and it is now the voice of the whole world.

Gentlemen, we may, therefore, confidently indulge the hope that our opinions will continue to run in unison; that our concurrence will continue to be as cordial as it has hitherto been, if unhappily any new occasion of difficulty or embarrassment should hereafter arise.

At the present moment, I am sure, we are equally desirous to bury the recollection of all our differences with others in that general feeling of exultation in which all opinions happily combine.

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A free imagination, or the tyranny of the mob?

CHRISTIAN SALMON

Ten years on, Rushdie has shown us how literature is forgotten amid the hatred of art that haunts this century

WHEN THE news came over the wire services on 14 February 1989 that a writer had been condemned to death, the whole thing seemed at first like a dreadful anachronism. But instead of a mystery which we could only comprehend through analogy - that of Inquisition victims burned at the stake - there was the face of a real man on the front pages of our newspapers and on our television screens. It was the face of a writer unknown to the general public. half English, half Indian, who stood out for his novel way of expressing a fascination with mixed origins and mixed lives.

Salman Rushdie has been caught up up in an unprecedented political/literary affair which for 10 years now has kept the secret services of several countries, armies of diplomats and police, commandos of fundamentalists and an overexcited media busy. He could have become lost in a media mirror-world, where the greatest tragedies turn into virtual reality: witness the case of Diana, whose sorry destiny as a media star he analysed on the pages of Le Monde. But he has escaped becoming a media victim, and first and foremost because he is a writer. Even as he led the struggle against terrorism by a state, he was waging another war against another fatwa - this one less clear cut and more difficult to win.

e atheis

Those who promulgated this second fatwa were not the fundamentalist mullahs in Tehran, but politicians (sometimes progressive politicians), religious figures (sometimes the most enlightened ones) or even writers (John le Carré), Immediately after 14 February 1989 you could see them hurry to express their solidarity and understanding. Not however with a writer threatened with death by a terrorist state · but with "Muslims unjustly insulted over their religious convictions".

One church leader saw a link between the Rushdie affair and the campaign which nao deen launched a iew modu earlier against Martin Scorsese's film The Last Temptation of Christ. Once again, he proclaimed, "believers are insulted over their faith: first Christians in a film which disfigures the image of Christ, now Muslims in a book about the prophet". Monsignor John O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, believed that Rushdie's book was offensive and asked Catholics not to read it. The Chief Rabbi of Israel, the Vatican and Margaret Thatcher also expressed their disapproval, while Jacques Chirac, the future president of France, unwisely declared that he had "no sympathy for Mr Rushdie. I have read what has appeared in the press (ie the first chapters of The Satanic Verses), It's pathetic." But it was Mr Lustiger, a member of the Academie Francaise, who went furthest. He did not hesitate to state that "the figures of Christ and Mohamet do not belong to artists and their imagination" - thus incidentally writing off entire centuries of

the history of painting. Ten years on, the Rushdie affair has shown itself to be the final, and most theatrical, act of a tragedy of which all the protagonists - the media, the mullahs, "enlightened" Westerner and radical Islamist, leaders political and religious have been one by one unmasked. Be it in Paris, New York, Rome or Jerusalem, literature has been forgotten; the fatwa has become steadily more acceptable and Salman Rushdie increasingly suspect. Only the talent, the courage, and the tireless presence of Salman Rushdie has allowed us to see what is really at stake in this affair: how literature is forgotten amid the hatred of art which haunts this century. It is a fatwa against fiction.

According to this fatwa, Dead Souls is an insult to the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, Madame Bovary is a



- a novel which it would be impossible to publish today - is a defence of paedophilia. Or take Joyce's Ulysses, once described as "the literature of the lavatory" and as "literary Bolshevism". It was published in Paris in 1922 but remained banned in the US until 1933 and in England until 1937. No matter that, throughout this period, pornographic books, anti-religious tracts and ious dseudo-noveis adounded. It

always literature which is persecuted. But what's so threatening about fiction? Michel Foucault suggested that there are several levels of censorship; that which covers explicit content (for instance, a catalogue of blasphemous words) and that which covers forms of language that are deemed to go too far "not in their meaning, or in their verbal content, but in their interplay". Into this forbidden and proscribed category fall de Sade, Joyce, Rushdie, Rabelais, Céline and Genet. The fatwa against Rushdie did not punish a crime of opinion. It punished a novel. And not just Rushdie's novel, but the genre of

the novel in its entirety. Nadezhda Mandelstam recounts Kruschev's story of how Stalin once saw a famous actor on television playing the part of a traitor. Stalin was so impressed by the actor's skills that he declared only a real traitor could play the role so well - and ordered that the required measures be

Half a century later, on 13 February 1989, Ayatollah Khomeini was also watching television, and saw the Pakistani police open fire on demonstrators who were protesting against the publication in the US of a book entitled The Satanic Verses. Khomeini hadn't read the book but was so taken with the scenes of massacre on screen that he concluded that a book called The Satanic Verses could only be a satanic book, the sole purpose of which was blasphemy and insult. So he went into the next room and dictated his fatwa on the spot, requesting Muslims the world over "to put to death Salman Rushdie and his publishers, wherever they are found".

It's hard to know whether the lesson of these tales is that tyrants are overimpressionable or that they watch too much television. But they are proof anew of a failing

defence of adultery and Nabokov's Lolita of literary history: a Don Quixote-like confusion between reality and fiction.

When Don Quixote interrupted a puppet show, took his sword and ran through two puppets because they were not behaving in keeping with the rules of chivalry, he was displaying the blindness of Stalin confronted by the actor/traitor. His rigid notion of chivalry denied him that minimum of distance from events, without darouv, the theatre, the very o scription of something else is impossible.

The crowds who gathered across the world to oppose publication of The Satanic Verses had not read the book. Like Khomeini they were reacting only to the title - as if The Sotonic Verses were an antireligious pamphlet and not a novel; thus do hundreds of thousands of Don Quixotes protest, without knowing it, against the behaviour of an individual, his dreams and his ideas. These are crowds ready to kill on account of beings which are merely the product of paper and ink. But how can you blame them when the West's political and media élites make the same mistake? Great works stand out because of the

uncertainty they plant in our minds. They do not involve the explicit excesses and obscenities which bring about bans and taboos. Instead, they change perceptions and touch the most sensitive themes, searching out, as Rushdie puts it, "new angles from which to penetrate reality". Phey strive to create a different hierarchy of the senses, to make us look at ourselves in different ways. The Satanic Verses, after all, is not simply about various episodes from the Koran and the condemnation to death of its author, found guilty of having challenged God's word with his profane words and of having created confusion over identity and origins. It is a paeon of love: to emigration, to cultural cross-breeding, to the sheer exotic richness of modern life. The Saturic Verses turns exile into a defining experience which allows the real world to be re-explored and a new world to be discovered. "America, a nation of immigrants, has created great literature out of cultural transplantation and the study of how people cope with a new world," Rushdie writes.

Today, as a result of migration and nomadism, languages and cultures are moving into a new age. Rushdie's novel testifies to this new and giddy diversity of the human condition, its entanglements and collisions. This is the new world to which The Satanic Verses tries to give shape, with all the attendant risks and surprises.

Rushdie's novel - and this is why it has burst so disastrously into the real world is an attempt through fiction to gain a grip on the central question of modern life. The writers like Flaubert, Balzac and Proust in their era: how do you enter society? Society then meant the Arnoux family for Frédéric in L'Education sentimentale, Rastignac's Paris in Balzac or the Guermantes salon in Proust. The questions Rushdie asks are: how do you enter a world that is absolutely open? How do you come into the world when you belong to several worlds? What are you born as when you are a migrant? In other words, how do you find identity and individuality in a world where all identifications are equivalent and equally possible?

The Satonic Verses is the first great carnival novel of the era of globalisation. It is an immigrant's inside vision of the world -not as something distant and exotic, but with all the conflicts and contradictions that go with the immigrant's condition and the transformed awareness this implies. Perceptions change, not only of time and space, but of sexuality, culture, religion, even of one's own body.

The fall of a plane upon London in The Sotonic Verses - which stands for a fall into our Western times and a fall out of a theocentric world - is the start of a process that reorders our notions of good and evil. Traditional values are not rejected. They crumble gradually. They continue to exist as memories, fetishes, left-overs, clichés. They are carried along, displaced and disformed, in the great swirl of forms and values that constitutes Rushdie's carnival. Kafka wanted to write the world history of a single soul. Rushdie, on the other hand, seeks to bring the great circus of globalisation alive, giving it form and people.

The essential job of fiction, according to

Gilles Deleuze, is to invent a people which is missing. With Rushdie and his giants of immigration and the world, we are present at the birth of such a people. It is a people of immigrants, scattered between London and Bombay. It is a people made up of men betrayed, because they have been "moved beyond their origin" and because their values and identities mix with each other and contaminate each other

This is why the fatwa dinst Rushdie finds its supporters and .10t only in Tehran. For modern censor .uip is first and foremost the tyranny of conformity. Today, we cute wrat is uniorii believable - everything that is different and heterorenous, everything that is being born. It's not surprising, therefore, that in its focus on language, on the individual and his search for new forms of identity, the novel comes up against the drained but still fanatical mob, blindly following the prophets of purity in everything, turning back on their tracks in search of a lost identity, in a futile quest for origins.

The Rushdie affair is different from the Dreyfus case, which produced a clear demarcation between Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards and in which the intelligentsia emerged as supreme defender of right and justice. The Rushdie affair has lacked that clarity, because ultimately it has not been about defying raison d'état and forcing recognition of the fact that a man unjustly condemned is innocent. It is not about defending established rights or returning honour to a truth scorned. It is about the recognition of a right which cannot be precisely defined and which indeed has yet to be invented. This right involves another sort of compromise between literature and politics. It is the right to fiction, the right to depict things.

The Rushdie affair has become our affair. In some respects it has been played out in the shadows but it has made a huge impact none the less. A festering quarrel that is four centuries old, between literature on one side and religion and politics on the other, has been forced into the open at a global level. Far from being a passive victim, Rushdie has waged a daily war against fear. It has been a strange story of imagination disarmed yet insurgent what Edward Said has called "an intifada of the imagination".

The author is secretary general of the International Parliament of Writers

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Gay icon Tinky Winky, one of the Tellytubbies, has been "outed" by the Lanatical religious crusader, the Reverend Jerry Falwell, The · American preacherman says. "Tinky Winky is purple, the gay pride

colour, and his antenna

is shaped like a triangle, the gay pride symbol. I believe these subtle depictions are intentional and are damaging to the moral lives of children." The hunt is on for closet gays on children's TV George, the pink hippe in Rainbour, and the campest puppet in television history, had

better watch out.

Gladiators vanquished So farewell then. Jet. Hunter, Wolf. Cobra, Nightshade and Lightning, And huge cotton buds. Wave a giant fingered sponge goodbye to the heady mixture of muscle power and clamour that was Gladiators. The ratings were fading and the fans got bored. Even the Prime

Minister confessed two years ago that: "Gladiators was favourite viewing in our house. Now it's whatever happens to be on, sometimes You Bet' or Noel's House Party." But it was not for the want of trying by the LWT producers. One of them. Ken Warwick, alleged that he was told to persuade the male Glads to put bits of newspaper

> This is Robin "Gladiator Cook obviously not a man who needs to stuff anything down his undies. Now, is that a

Ramrod Robin

battering ram he's wielding, or is he just pleased to see us?

Mini camper This is the Paul Smith "designer" Mini. Its multiiob compliment the chubby

now on show at the Design Museum in London.

Image of the week This new sculpture has been erected at a place called Westferry Circus, here at Barometer's home in Canary Wharf. The tree took six months to create and is the work of Anglo-French artist Pierre Vivant. Monsieur Vivant "planted" his tree on the spot where a real tree had died of pollution. Its 75 sets of lights flash red, amber and green in a cycle reflecting the changing colours of the leaves during the year. Potentially confusing to



Mr Laws triumphant

Get up, it's extremely cold and I am worried that it will spoil my tennis. I'm on the court at 10, but it's so cold I can barely hold the racket. One of my friends from Unison rings to say that National Grid think they are going to have to repay the money they took from our pension fund.

I get a call in the morning to confirm the court number and start-time of 9.30 for Wednesday. This causes me some consternation, because we have sent out 1,200 letters to members of the Association of Electricity Supply Pensioners telling them it is a 10am start. This will cause difficulties over cheap day-returns. Some of the lovely East Midlands

ladies call to say that the rail fare will

be £60; they apologise for not being

At bloody 8.30 the phone starts ringing: I get 50 calls from people committed to coming and some giving apologies. In the evening my girlfriend arrives with huge quantities of food from Marks & Spencer I crack open a bottle of wine and put my feet up. Later I get out my suit with the mothballs; I am not particularly happy to be wearing a tie, as I haven't worn one in five years, but I think I should try and look reasonable as I might hit the TV.

I get a call from my solicitor, Peter Wood, to revise our meeting for 8am tomorrow. I watch the news before going to bed.

MY WEEK

DAVID LAWS, CAMPAIGNER FOR THE PENSION

Up at 5.30. I am lucky that my girlfriend has offered me a lift to the station. I am feeling reasonably confident, I arrive early at my it's the breath of real people in this solicitor's. Peter is still in his cycling gear when he tells me we've won. I rise as the judges walk in; the size let out a big yell, hug him and dance. My fellow campaigner Reg and his girlfriend arrive, and we National Grid is missing, they are too study the judgment. I am delighted to find the decision is unanimous, a victory for 2,000 members in all the clamour of goodwill and congratu-

RIGHTS OF ELECTRICITY WORKERS

 a victory for the ordinary man. I am astonished to see how small the court is. There are about 60 members here, which is a joy to see: stuffy atmosphere. My emotions embarrassed to turn up.

On leaving the court, there is a electricity companies in the country lations, which is extremely touching.

I make every endeavour to stay together with Reg and Peter. Reg seems to have problems keeping up. but he is 75. All the press are there. I do a photo-call, with some astonishing posing.

Everyone goes to The George pub. Within 10 minutes, the barman tells me that the limit behind the bar from our fund has been reached; we rapidly agree to extend it.

I have an interview at Meridian TV for the six o'clock news. I feel like it hasn't gone well, but they seem happy. My girlfriend arrives unexpectedly. I'm in a happy mood and indulge in a cigar, a coffee and a brandy. I am determined to catch and video the news.

Thurşday Get up and listen to all my answering-machine messages from yesterday. They are heart-warming and congratulatory. Local radio and newspapers have also called but I know it's too late to call back. It was esterday's news and today it ain't. Today is clear-up-the-house day. then I'm off to the town centre to do my shopping. In the evening I meet my girlfriend in the leisure centre bar. It's a nice end to the day.

Friday

I call Peter in the morning to speak about the case. I've left it a couple of days before calling him, to collect my thoughts. In the afternoon I make a guest list for a celebratory evening I'm arranging. I've got to be realistic, about 30 to 40 people, I don't want a wild party.

INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE

The last seduction

Gay men are tired of living in fear of Aids. So now they're turning risk into a thrill. By Andrew Gumbel

ete is into barebacking. likes to have unprotected advertises himself on the Internet as a "good-looking Italian" with a lean, muscular body to be able to have sex without fear." and an appetite for hours of pleasure - strictly without condoms. As long as people understand his particular predilection, Pete will take whatever he can get.

Pete isn't sure if he is HIV-positive or not. "Last I checked it was neg, but not sure 'cause I like taking it raw and have done so a lot," he wrote in a recent online exchange with the American gay columnist Michelangelo Signorile.

"Do you have any concern about becoming poz [positive]?" Signorile asked him. "I have a concern about it, sure. But love it raw, even with

that concern." "What if you become positive?" Signorile persisted. "Well, I'd like to stav neg." he said. "But it's a very manageable disease with the meds today. I'd probably not die from it."

A survey of homosexual and bisexual American men just published by the government Center for Disease Controls and Prevention shows that, for the first time since the height of the Aids epidemic, condom-use has become less rigorous. While 69.9 per cent of respondents reported using a condom without fail for anal sex in 1994, that number slipped to 60.8 per cent in 1997, the latest year for which figures are available. The biggest slippage was among men between the ages of 26 and 29 - the first generation to have grown up entirely under the shadow of the epidemic.

According to the San Franciscobased Stop Aids Project, which contributed much of the data for the CDC report, the rate of HIV infection appeared stable for now, but there was a sharp increase in cases of anal gonorrhea - not life-threatening in itself, but it increases the risk of HIV two to five times.

"There is a shift taking place with-He is a gay man who in the context of the epidemic," said the Stop Aids Project's Robert sex with other men. He Perez. "After 20 years of dealing with Aids, people are getting restless. They want it to be over. They want

> Barebacking is not a new phenomenon in the gay community, but for the past few years it has been generally assumed that participants are HIV-positive already and merely want to maximise their fun now that it is too late to avoid contagion. New evidence suggests, however, that the phenomenon is spreading to HIV-negative men who are less concerned about infection than they used to be, and even to some who actively seek HIV-positive partners.

> A number of Internet sites deal in disconcertingly revealing buzzwords like "bug chaser" (someone seeking an HIV-positive partner) and "gift-giver" (a positive man looking for someone negative to infect). There are adverts for "Russian roulette parties" in which four negative partners aim to get together with a fifth, HIV-positive one for the thrill of it. One particularly forthright site called XtremeSex is advertising a mass barebacking party in Dallas, Texas in April.

How to make sense of the phenomenon? The gay community is both wary and deeply divided over the issue. Traditional activist groups have condemned barebacking and attempted to play down the extent of it, while radical voices denounce what they see as the shrill sermonising of the "condom Nazis".

Robert Perez of the Stop AIDS Project, for example, insisted that barebacking was practised by "a tiny minority" of gay men as a whole, and insisted that, despite the disap-pointment of the CDC's latest figures, it was still an achievement for 60 per cent of gay men to use a condom during anal sex. But in this month's issue of the New Yorkbased magazine POZ, written for HIV-positive men, journalist Michael



'Gay men don't want to face a lifetime of wrapping themselves in latex'

Scarce writes: "Distinct from an in- ument agreeing not to discuss illness, HIV or treatment. The intense sex he witnessed - a regular Thursday night fixture - was utterly silent, with no questions asked. Such accounts dismay and incense traditional anti-AIDS activists, who have accused POZ of glamorising barebacking as sexy and desirable.

As part of his research, Scarce visited a barebacking house in the unmistakably erotic pose. Castro district of San Francisco. He "I am surprised at POZ, not only paid \$8 at the door, was invited to for sensationalising the movement, take his clothes off and signed a doc-but for not presenting a balanced

view. Nowhere did I see the word 'responsibility'. As an HIV-infected man myself, I take that responsibility very seriously," said Tom Coates, director of the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California in San Francisco. Meanwhile, the barebackers are The magazine's cover shows an HIV-positive gay porn star, sitting

asserting condom-free sex as some-thing of a right, "After 18 years of liv-ing in doubt and crisis," a 36-year-old naked astride a black stallion in an barebacking lawyer called Zach told Scarce, "men don't want to face a lifetime of wrapping themselves in latex." It remains to be seen how long such a defiant stance can last.

Mud, mud, glorious mud

TOM, MY unsporty son, was extolling the delights of rugby to his little brother, who has yet to try the 15-a-side game. "It's definitely more fun than football," he assured him. "But Tom, you HATE rugby," I objected, remembering that the full rugby kit - including mouth-guard – required by his new school had been worn precisely twice before Tom opted for medicine-ball in the gym, or whatever alternative is offered in these enlightened times. "Well, it's my favourite outdoor sport," he insisted. "It's just that I don't like getting all muddy and cold

The rest of his sentence was lost in my guffaws as I burst into a chorus of "Mud, mud, glorious mud". Rugby's detractors may describe it as cross-country wrestling, but surely getting muddy is the very essence of the sport. My memories of my own schoolboy rugby career are limited - I wasn't much good at it - but it always seemed to be raining, and it was fun getting covered in mud from head to toe. As a spectator, the particular glory of the pristine white uniform worn by the English international team is that it looks completely filthy within 10 minutes of kick-off

If you share Tom's taste in sport and don't have a dog to walk, there's very little reason to go outside for the six months of the British winter: you might as well emigrate to Florida. Better, in my view, to find reasons to enjoy cold, damp weather, and playing rugby is one of them – you charge around enough to keep yourself warm, and have the sheer, elemental fun of hurling yourself and your opponents into the mud.

Football is, of course, more adaptable, which is one of the reasons for its universal appeal and its spread to parts of the globe too dry to have much grass, let alone mud.



BRUCE MILLAR

One of the traditional pleasures of British football, though, is the long-range sliding tackle, a manoeuvre alien to the South American game and one which comes into its own on boggy midwinter pitches.

And it is not only mud that can be best enjoyed through sport. Earlier this week, I awoke to find a thin blanket of frozen slush over the world the closest we have come to snow this year. In a weak moment I considered ahandoning the weekly run on the local running track in favour of an indoor work-out at the gym, but luckily I decided to go ahead as planned.

I had the slippery track to myself and began running slowly and gingerly, my shoes crunching the knobbly ice at each stride. Slowly my feet felt more secure and I gathered speed. Perhaps I was becoming used to the conditions. But no; what was happening was that the ice was gradually melting as the low winter sun transformed the cruel morning into a bright, crystal-clear day.

I can't recall having observed or experienced conditions changing at such close quarters before, and it was certainly the highlight of my week. I know I'll never persuade Tom that he should play rugby, and that doesn't bother me. But I do hope he finds some way to enjoy getting cold and wet and muddy.

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Blorious mud

Fifty years after their expulsion from Poland, the Germans are back. What are they after? And why? By Steve Crawshaw

The return of a nightmare

dmittedly, it does not look like a prize piece of property to argue over. A plain one-Storey house, a brick shed, a couple of fruit trees. Ducks and geese wander forlornly across the frozen village pond; at one end of the village a huge stork's nest sits in solitary splendour in the fork of a tree; in the village stores, the selection of goods is almost as basic as in Communist times. In the village of Mosina, in north-west Poland, poverty is the rule. Most farmers can barely make ends meet - and they fear that things are getting worse.

But at least the land is theirs - or seemed to be until recently. Jerzy Gawel and his family have lived in Mosina, south-west of Gdansk, for 50 years. They have no other home. Before 1939, however, Mosina - then known as Mossin - was part of Germany. The man who lived in Gawel's house as a child 50 years ago wants the farm back. The demand, and others like it, has opened up a can of political worms.

The letters from 60-year-old Heribert Wehry are suavely threatening. Wehry, an agricultural engineer from Paderborn in western Germany, sent copies of pre-war maps to bolster his claim to the property, which he left when he was five years old. In a four-page letter to the local mayor, he refers to international law - the Hague, the United Nations, Bosnia, you name it - and to the "painful but necessary" changes in law that Poland must make, including the "restitution of property to the Germans", if it wishes to be considered for membership of the European Union.

All of which might be dismissed as a bad joke - a green-ink letter written by a malicious eccentric were it an isolated case. But it is not. Some of Wehry's demands for restitution are on pre-printed, bilingual forms. When I telephone Wehry, his wife says that he does not talk to iournalists. But one thing is clear: thousands of such forms, distributed by an association of German ex-

who were driven out in 1945. Now that the Communists are gone, they have a chance of getting their hands on their property once more. Jerzy Gawel, whose father rebuilt the house from ruins after 1945, feels bewildered: "I'm just a little pawn." His 75-year-old mother, Natalia, is neryous. Wringing her hands in front of the house the German wants her to lose, she says: "They said we shouldn't be afraid - but who knows what will happen next?"

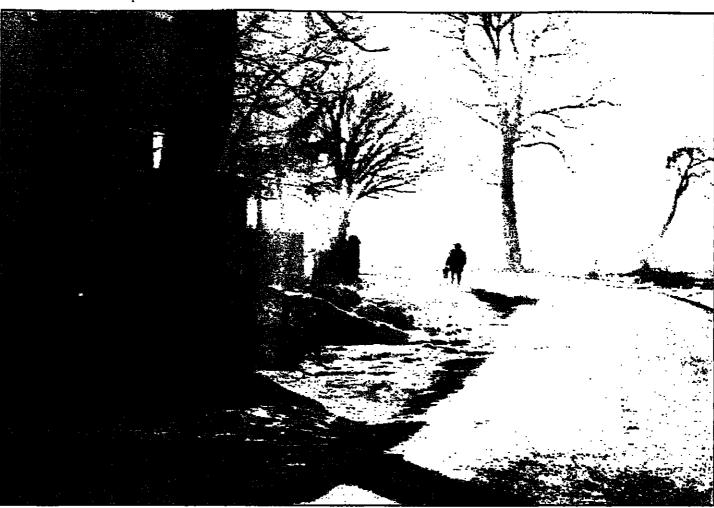
This is unfinished business, as far as the Germans are concerned. In 1945, the Western Allies agreed to pick Poland up and dump it to the west, so as to keep Stalin happy by giving him more lebensroum. The Oder-Neisse line - named after the two rivers that mark the post-war Polish-German border - made little objective sense. But nor did much else at that time. Poland lost a

'We don't trust the Germans - they'll take us, not by war, but with money'

quarter of a million square miles in the east, and gained swathes of German territory in the north and

The expulsions remained a raw German wound. A post-war West German school history book referred to "terrible suffering, such as the world no longer considered possible in the 20th century". Grotesquely, the reference was not to Auschwitz, nor to any other aspect of Nazism, but to the painful expulsion of Germans from their homes.

There is what might be called a Serbian quality to this German sense of victimhood: an awareness of their own (real) suffering, and a determination to ignore the suffering of others. Put the ultimate crime of Auschwitz to one side for a mopellees, have been filled in by those ment. Put to one side six years of them in their rucksacks, and had



Uneasy peace: the Polish village of Mosina used to be the German village of Mossin

routine brutality against Poles - to head for the east in cattle trucks." who were "more like animals than human beings" in Hitler's view.

Even if one addresses only the narrow question of ethnic cleansing, Germany started the ball rolling, only weeks after the invasion of Thomas Urban, the German journalist and historian: "More than a man. They took him, they took the million Polish citizens were affected. Most of them were dragged out of their beds at night; they could only take the bare necessities with

Anna Pertek was 12 years old when the Germans arrived in the village of Przyrowa, just across the border from Mosina into pre-war Poland, in 1939. She is close to tears as she tells a familiar story from that Poland in 1939. In the words of time: "They took the village teacher and shot him. He was such a good

Some are still keen to pick at the old historical sores, however, under the guise of sorting things out. The German parliament, the Bundestag, complained last year of the "great priest. They murdered them all - and we're supposed to forget it. We injustice in violation of international should - but it's difficult." The relaw" suffered by the expellees, and maining inhabitants of the village insisted that Poland must change its were forced out, minus their pos- property laws if it wished to "help

not the way it seems to the Germans.

sessions, so that Przyrowa could beovercome the consequences of war come a "decent", Pole-free zone. As and expulsion". Poland exploded

far as Anna Pertek is concerned, the with anger at what it saw as a deliberate provocation: the Polish par-Germans who were thrown out six years later had it easy. But that is liament retorted with an almost unanimous condemnation of the "dangerous tendencies" of the Bundestag resolution. The new social democrat chancellor, Gerhard Schröder wants to stay sweet with the powerful lobby of the Federation of Expellees: he will give the keynote speech at the Federation's 50th anniversary celebrations for the Federal German Republic in May.

For many Germans, the renewed interest in the eastern territories is mere nostalgia. Bookshops across the country are full of lavishly illustrated books depicting the woods, lakes and broad shady avenues of the former German lands of Pomerania and east Prussia. At an official level, too, Germany is not keen to be seen as the Big Bad Wolf

of the region. There is a loophole, however. Agricultural land in Poland is cheap and Germany insists that under EU rules, Germans and others must be allowed to buy Polish land freely. As far as the Poles are concerned, that is equivalent to the point in a Monopoly game where one player owns hotels on Piccadilly, Park Lane and Mayfair, while another owns nothing but a mortgaged Whitechapel and Old Kent Road. From that point on, the game's ending is predetermined. The Poles feel that the Germans are rich and getting richer. The Poles are poor and - especially if they lose the property that they still hold - doomed to get poorer still.

Some are unbothered by the property claims and by the non-stop stream of German visitors. Thirty eight-year-old Leszek Kicinski speaks warmly of the family who once lived in his home in Mosina, and who regularly come to visit, bringing gifts for the children. "They're very kind. We've been to stay with them in Hamburg several times. If we don't write, they ask us, 'Have we said something to offend you?"." Others are glad for the extra income that German visitors bring.

For others, however, this is the return of a nightmare. In some respects. Poland is increasingly anchored in the West. Next month it joins Nato; in a few years' time. it looks set to join the European Union. In Mosina, however, Anna Pertek feels only angry despair. "We don't trust the Germans, and we never did." she says.

"They'll take us - not by war, but by money. I don't want anything from them - I just want them to leave us in peace. But they'll come anyway, and they'll get it all for free.'

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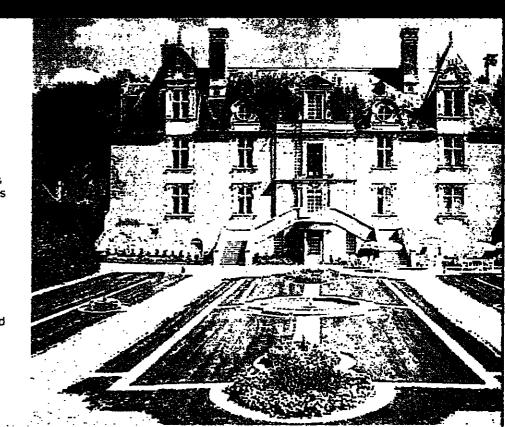
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Corona North

ness she inherited at Altamont, Co Carlow, into one of the great gardens of Europe. Her single-minded passion has evoked comparison with certain qualifications - with Scarlett O'Hara's at Tara.

When, in 1983, Isobel Lecky-Watson died at the age of 101, she bequeathed Altamont House and 140 acres of beautiful but mostly unserviceable land on the banks of the Slaney to her two daughters, Diana and Corona. Everyone - not least Corona's husband, Gary, and Diana herself - assumed that the estate would be sold and that the proceeds would ensure a comfortable and leisurely old age for the two sisters.

They had not banked on Corona. A passionate plantswoman, she set about restoring the largely derelict gardens, took the arable land back in hand and, by dint of her own unceasing labours and by chivvying, bullying and cajoling others, con-trived to turn Altamont into one of the best-loved and most-visited gardens in Ireland.

Altamont boasts many rarities, but it is its diversity which makes it unique. Man's - or, more usually woman's - hand has touched it only so much, for Corona North's passion for the red squirrels and the ravens which haunt the woods and the eels and otters of the riverbank equalled her enthusiasm for plants of better recorded pedigree. Immediately beneath the 18th-century house are the formal gardens with their rosebeds and pergolas, a giant Wellingtonia surrounded by Portugal Laurel. planted to commemorate Waterioo. a peony walk, wistaria walk, tulip trees and handkerchief trees.

Rare azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias surround the one-acre lake which was dug in order to create labour during the famine of 1845. Beyond, the stream and the garden plunge into an ice-age glen of sessile oaks and giant granite boulders. Here are rare camellias and hollies, Chilean fire-trees, ferns and bogplants, but here too unofficial fungi,

CORONA NORTH turned the wilder- wild daffodils and bluebells in season, and startling vistas of the river below. All this North nurtured through drought, storm and frost. She planted the last of her collection of rare oaks a week before her death.

She was born Corona Lecky-Watson in 1922 at the height of the civil war. The family's several houses were spared because they were known to be Quakers and good landlords, but two doctors deputed to attend at Corona's birth found their way blocked by trenches and trees

In the chaos, her parents forgot for months to name her. She was called after her father's favourite rhododendron

felled by rebel forces, and had to run cross-country, Gladstone bags in hand. A few weeks later, a band of masked, armed men stormed the house and searched it for arms. They demanded that they be given permission to search the nursery. Isobel stood at the threshold and invited them to shoot her sooner than enter the room and terrify the children.

Amidst the chaos, the naming of the new arrival somehow slipped the Lecky-Watsons' minds. It was a nanny who pointed out the deficiency some months after the baby's birth, and Fielding Lecky-Watson glanced out of the window and selected the name of his favourite rhododendron.

As the daughter of a noted family of "thrusters" - the Watsons had been masters of the Carlow for a century and had hunted and killed the last Irish wolf at nearby Myshall in 1850 - Corona grew up in Molly



North's gardens at Altamont are among the most visited in Ireland. She left them to the Irish government

Keane land, hunting, fishing, dancing and making the annual pilgrimages to Badminton, Punchestown, Cheltenham and Galway. The Lecky-Watsons, however, had a less public passion. The family had been amongst the more discerning patrons of the intrepid plant collectors of the 19th and 20th centuries, and many of the azaleas at Altamont are descended from these early gleanings.

Corona, like all her kind, scorned

the "Anglo-Irish" appellation. She was Irish. On the other hand, Ireland was part of the British Isles and her links with England were strong. When the Second World War broke out, therefore, she "naturally" caught the ferry and enrolled as a Fani. She recalled often the pleasure of coming home on leave on a train which would run out of fuel and have to wait until the passengers had cut enough

ning of the demesne. She was never able to make a good thing of the farm, but resisted all attempts to sell the land, in part because she loved her Channel Island herd and the gloriously mixed fowl which strutted about the gardens, in part because she loved their produce. She would drink cream by the half-pint, and the menu at her many lunches was nigh unchanging - pate made with Altamont chickens and poteen,

served on Altamont soda-bread with

Altamont butter, fresh Slaney

salmon or, out of season, beef, and

Altamont fruit, again with cream.

In 1965, when Altamont's great lake froze over, Corona held a party at which she was struck by the stylish skating of Colonel Gary North, late of the Buffs, a visitor at a neighturves to build up a head of steam. bouring house. They married the fol-

Returning to Ireland after the war, Corona gradually took over the run-steward's cottage above the river which Corona extended ad lib with a characteristic blend of elegance, impulsiveness and impracticality.

It was on her mother's death, however, that Corona North's life's work began in earnest. To her husband's grumbles, she moved to the big house and then all but neglected it as she worked to clear beds and woodland, to plant and to prune. Dawn would find her feeding her fowl, working in the dairy, then putting in an hour or so in the garden before breakfast in the bow-windows overlooking her handiwork. Way into dusk, she could be found - or rather, in general could not be found - in baggy corduroy trousers, battling with bracken or briars in the glen. Gary would summon her with a hunting horn, explaining, "Woman's evaporated again."

This labour of love was rewarded by thousands of visitors and pupils at the garden holiday courses she initiated, and, at the last, by the Irish government's agreement to take over the gardens after her death and continue to manage them according to her principles: "We want to keep them intact for future generations to enjoy and to instil in them knowledge and a love of gardens, wildlife and nature, and the necessity to care

for and protect their heritage." Corona North's last words to her oldest friend, Rosemary Skrine, were, "Well, I've achieved what ! wanted to achieve. It's safe now."

MARK DANIEL

Corona Deane Lecky-Watson, gardener: born Fenagh, Co Carlow 7 July 1922; married 1966 Gary North (died 1991); died Altomont, Co Carlow 7 February 1999.

Lt-Col Jean **Ballarin**

IN 1941, Jean Ballarin led what is always regarded as the last charge of the French cavalry.

He was a professional soldier who joined the French army as soon as he was 18, in 1933. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was a corporal, stationed in Syria, with a regiment of Moroccan spahis. He heard the appeal of General de Gaulle broadcast from London on 18 June 1940 and like many other soldiers serving overseas he had to make a choice. He had lost faith in generals. But there was one general remaining. Like many others, including Moroccans, he left Syria and went via Egypt to the Sudan.

The French troops were put to guarding the Suez Canal from July to October, when the British command brought them into the area where an offensive was being planned against the Italians. Ballarin was with the Moroccan spahis who moved to Kassal on the frontier between the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Eritrea.

The terrain was extremely difficult being largely mountainous, with primitive paths that were unsuitable for pack animals. The French unit had been given uniforms by the 5th Indian Division although they scrupulously kept their red kepis. Otherwise their equipment was lacking, particularly in automatic weapons. Therefore, given the terrain and this circumstance, they were particularly reliant on their horses.

Their orders were to reconnoitre the area of northern Eritrea and to engage with the Italian forces they encountered. On 2 January 1941 they were negotiating the plateau of Umberga when they came unexpectedly on a force of Askari soldiers with Italian officers. Although the Italians were superior in numbers the French charged them, pursued them, and charged them again. The Italians took refuge in dense vegetation.

This was not a large-scale encounter. The French lost one spahi, the Italians had nine dead and abandoned four prisoners. The platoon which charged twice, and was led by Ballarin, numbered some 20 men.

For the rest of his life Ballarin appeared as a heroic figure: after the defeats of 1940 he had played a leading role in a French victory, and one which seemed in the finest of French military traditions. When the Eritrean campaign was over, Ballarin's unit was equipped with armoured vehicles and automatic weapons, suitable for the desert war.

Ballarin fought with Free French McComb subsequently worked forces in Syria, and was afterwards covered "Don't Go Home with your | Koenig, he took part in the battle of album. In 1994, he issued a fine solo a lieutenant) went with General album, Love of Will, on Mushroom | Leclerc's army, in its attack on the trolian Melodrama (1994), a Triffids | plateau came under very heavy fire in the battle of Medenine, where he Backed by the Red Ponies, fought alongside the 2nd New McComb toured Europe but was Zealand Division and was under the taken ill while travelling to New | command of General Freyberg. Af-York later that year. A successful | terwards, in March 1943, he passed heart transplant in early 1995 en- | to Leclerc's command. The fighting abled him to resume his studies, at of the French in southern Tunisia Melbourne University, where he earned a typical tribute from Montgomery. "Well done." On 2 June 1943 Ballarin was decorated and made a Companion of the Liberation.

> A considerable change then came his way. De Gaulle had gone to Algiers on 30 May 1943. In August Ballarin was summoned to go there and to become head of de Gaulle's personal escort, with the rank of captain.

He did not accompany de Gaulle to France or to Paris in 1944, but returned to join Leclerc's army as it moved eastward towards Strasbourg and Germany. He was present at Hitler's last desperate attempts to keep Alsace in German hands. He stayed with Leclerc's celebrated 2DB as it was called (2ème Division Blindée), and went on to occupy Hitler's mountain home at Berchtesgaden.

After the war Ballarin remained with Koenig, who had admired his courage and now respected his facilities as an administrator. He was Koenig's chief aide in his commands of the French zone in occupied Germany, and of French forces in North Africa. In 1954 he experienced a hectic short period when Koenig became minister for defence in the government of Pierre Mendès France. This appointment, against the express wishes of de Gaulle, had to strengthen the French forces in Indo-China and find a compromise agreement for the creation of the European Defence Community

With Koenig's resignation Ballarin returned to the army. In his last appointment, promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonei, he was given command of the 5th Regiment of Moroccan spahis. He retired from the army in 1962 and devoted himself to business interests in the 13th arrondissement of Paris. But he was always remembered as the soldier who led the last charge of the French cavalry.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Jean Ballarin, soldier: born La articles written and lectures given 1958 Ann Heatley (four sons); died married (four sons); died Paris 27 January 1999

David McComb

AUSTRALIAN ROCK acts exist in a their dues overseas before being accepted back home.

The Triffids, whose tall and charismatic front man was David McComb, followed in the footsteps of the Birthday Party and the Go-Betweens and relocated from Perth to London in the mid-Eighties. Their distinctive melodramatic songs earned the band a big cult following in Britain and the rest of Europe but, despite the critical acclaim given to albums like Born Sandy Devotional, Calenture and The Black Swan, mainstream success eluded them.

Born in 1962, McComb was the youngest of four sons in a medical Front man of the Triffids family, his father a plastic surgeon of Protestant Northern Irish stock and his mother a geneticist with Huguenot ancestry. Religious images and medical references, along with maritime metaphors, abound in his haunting songs and sea-shanties.

Growing up in the coastal town of Perth, in Western Australia, McComb eschewed the beach-bum culture, attended Christ Church Grammar School and proved a gifted student, winning prizes in Eng-



lish literature and divinity. While still at school, he formed his first band, Dalsy, with Alsy MacDonald on drums. Dalsy was a multimedia project, producing music, books and photographic work, and its output reflected McComb's early interests, in Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, the Velvet Underground and Patti Smith Going on to embrace disparate el-

ements of popular music from country to electronic via the arty punk of Television and Talking Heads, Dalsy had, by 1978, evolved into the Triffids, and also comprised Martin Cassiva on the had already hauled ourselves 3,000 Adam Peters, on suitar—concorted and also comprised Martyn Casey on bass, Phil Kakulas, soon replaced by Jill Birt, on keyboards, and one of McComb's brothers, Robert, on violin, keyboards and guitar

McComb went on to Curtin University, in Perth, to study journalism and literature. In 1980, the Triffids won a band demo competition and released their first single, "Stand Up", on the Shake Some Action label, the following year. By then Mc-Comb had decided to give music a real go. From their remote base, the Triffids moved to Melbourne before eventually settling in Sydney.

After a couple of singles and EPs, the group had saved up money from support slots with the Hoodoo Gurus, the Church and Hunter and Collectors, and in 1983 completed a debut album, Treeless Plain, for Hot Records, a Sydney independent. However, McComb later recalled: In Australia, we were stuck between two worlds. We were trying to balance the harshness of Australian pature with a sense of romance. We were neither an art band nor a rock band like Cold Chisel or Midnight Oil. The Triffids had critical recognition and a thriving audience

miles from our home town, we decided to head for the UK. This wasn't meticulously planned; it was just less trouble than getting US work visas. The Triffids arrived in London in

1985 and with the addition of "Evil" Graham Lee on pedal steel guitar, recorded the Born Sandy Devotional album (1986) and Wide Open Road EP, and played a series of "agssive, cathartic shows. Even the ballads were confrontational," said McComb. The group were hailed by the British media, were featured on the John Peel show and supported Echo and the Bunnymen, and could now go back and take part in the "Australian Made" tour, headlined by INXS, in January 1987. "An Adelaide paper called the Triffids the most un-Australian and the most European

band on the bill," said McComb. Down under again, the Triffids had built an eight-track machine inside a shearing shed in the outback and cut the country-like album in the Pines (1986). On their return to the UK, they signed to Island Records. Armed with the considerable budget of £125,000, and the production skills

Adam Peters, on guitar - concocted the lush orchestrations of the poignant "Bury Me Deep In Love" and the melancholic wide-screen atmosphere of the subsequent Colenture album (1987). The title was a reference to "a fever or delirium when sailors have been away from land a long time and they start going loopy. They're convinced the rolling waves are green fields, so they jump overboard in a sort of homesickness gone badly wrong,"

Despite the release of another two excellent tracks as singles ("Trick of the Light" and "Holy Water"), Colenture didn't have the impact expected of it. "We realised we had been touched by the blessed hand of Spinal Top when we found ourselves to be certifiably ... big in Belgium, Holland, Greece and Scandinavia," said McComb. "It was obvious a beautiful era was at an end." In 1989, the "Goodbye Little Boy" single featured in the Australian soap opera Neighbours but, following The Black Swan (1989) and a live album recorded in Stockholm, the Triffids split up.

explained McComb.

ed a single, "The Message", and under the command of General Hard-On", for I'm Your Fan, a El Alamein. As the Allied troops 1991 Leonard Cohen tribute moved westward, Ballarin (by now Records, who also issued Aus- German forces in Tunisia Ballerin's compilation album.

formed a new band, costar, which played sporadically.

On 30 January, David McComb was injured in a car accident. He was released from hospital, but died suddenly at his home in Melbourne two days later.

PIERRE PERRONE

David McComb, singer, songwriter and guitarist born Perth. Western Australia 17 February 1962; married; died Melbourne, Victoria 1 February 1999.

Brendan Devlin

HAD ALL the members of the medical profession, not just some surmeons, listened to and acted upon the principles of audit, quality assurance and evidence-based practice proposed by Brendan Devlin more than 15 years ago, many of our present difficulties and loss of public confidence would never have occurred. His approach to surgery was encapsulated some 35 years earlier by George Armitage of Leeds when he said "Surgery; like cricket, is only interesting if you keep the score."

Born in Lancashire in 1932 into an Irish medical family and having thus seen medical practice in England and Ireland before the creation of the National Health Service, Devlin became an ardent supporter of its ideals, wanted it to be of the highest quality and learnt much about how to achieve his aims through the political machinery of the newly created Health Service from his father. This background led him to read for and obtain a BA in Public Administration and Political Science. in Dublin, before reading arranged for them to be visited by for his medical degree, which he obtained with bonours in 1957.

His surgical training followed the standard pattern of the day, five years as a Registrar, time off-service for research, followed by four years as a Senior Registrar, collecting an MD, an MCh, and Fellowships of the English and Irish Surgical Colleges on the way. Such a training moving from

hospital to hospital at six-monthly or vearly intervals, leaves little time to think beyond the day-to-day problems of surgical practice but, whilst Mummery at St Thomas', Devlin bedistress suffered by many patients with ileostomies and colostomies (artificial openings of the bowel on the abdominal wall following removal of part or the whole of the colon) caused by poorly fitting rubber bags and adhesives that often caused a severe dermatitis around the stoma. He was concerned about the way in which these problems affected the patients' whole life and so went out of the hospital to see them in their homes, nurses and encouraged the develop-

This work, including a book, Stoma Care Today (1985), continued after his appointment to a Consultant post at North Tees General Hospital, and with the work of others helped the growth and development of the British Colostomy Society, of which he was elected Chairman in 1998.

This experience rekindled his concern for the surgical patient when not in hospital, the effect of hospitalisation and the paucity of our knowledge about the long-term working with Sir Hugh Lockhart- physical and social effects of many surgical procedures. His recame increasingly disturbed by the sponse, which determined his whole career, was only to admit patients to hospital for as short a time as possible (or not at all) and to count all aspects of the cost of his clinical work clinical audit.

As soon as he arrived in North Tees around 1970, he started performing day case surgery - 15 years before the Royal College of Surgeon's first publication on the topic. As hernia repair was one of the main operations performed as a day case, he naturally became especially interested in the methods of hernia rement of better bags and adhesives. pair and more importantly their

results. Although this interest pro- 1986. It is now firmly established duced many publications on hernias including a major textbook, Monagement of Abdominal Hernias (1988), and took him on lecture tours to many parts of the world, its most significant effect was to emphasise to him, yet again, the poor quality of evidence advanced to justify the multitude of medical opinions concerning not only the best form of hernia repair but many other surgical procedures. Anecdotes, case series, experience yes but where was the hard, scientifically acceptable evidence?

In the early Eighties, he began his most important work - a crusade to make all doctors, not just surgeons, audit and constantly review their work. After many lectures and discussion groups conducted all over the UK, he persuaded the members of the Association of Surgeons and the Association of Anaesthetists, with the support of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to establish a National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative

Morality (NCEPOD). Its first report was published in

and is one of the national audits that is to be supported by the new National Institute for Clinical Effectiveness. As Director of CEPOD and later as Director of the Royal College of Surgeons Audit Unit - now the Department of Clinical Effectiveness - he championed the use of audit, guidelines, individual comparative audit, patient information brochures and quality assessment by patients. His biggest regret was that his profession has been so slow in adopting these methods of

guaranteeing quality. All this work was performed whilst conducting an active surgical practice and whilst being a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England where as Chairman of the Examinations Board he lead the revision of the nature and contents of the FRCS examination, making it, under its new title MRCS, an assessment of basic surgical training

but does not capture the zeal, en- 26 December 1998.



thusiasm, sometimes frustration and anger, of an exceptional man, whose lifelong concern was the well-being of the whole of every patient, body and mind, whether they be in hospital at home, at work or at play, and his unswerving belief in "keeping the score", to which NCEPOD will be his lasting memorial.

NORMAN BROWSE

His CV describes the multitude of Hugh Brendan Devlin, surgeon; committees he chaired, books and born 17 December 1932; married

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES

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Marius Schoon

MARIUS SCHOON'S life was a powerful argument against the notion of racial stereotyping. Nelson Mandela has described him as "an enduring example of the fight for non-racialism and democracy. He destroyed the myth that all Afrikaners were racists and oppressors. He therefore will be greatly missed, not only by his colleagues in the fight against apartheid, but by the entire South African nation."

White South Africans who challenged the apartheid government in the 1960s, at the risk of everything most precious to them, were very few. The number of white resisters whose first language was Afrikaans - the language of the regime that had institutionalised racism in every nook and cranny of social and personal life, the language of the police raid and the torture chamber - was minus-cule. Schoon was one of that tiny handful. He both loathed the ideology of racism and loved the richness of the

Afrikaans language, especially its poetry.

After the massacre of unarmed demonstrators at Sharpeville in 1960, radical opponents of the government, along with Nelson Mandela in the leadership of the African National Congress, turned towards violent methods of resistance.

Schoon served 12 years in prison for a futile effort to blow up a radio transmitter at a police station in Hillbrow, Johannesburg in 1964, a fiasco compromised from the beginning by the police provocateur who had set it up. His two colleagues in this attempt were Mike Ngubeni, a black South African, and Raymond Thoms, a white English-speaking South African. Ngubeni was sent to join Mandela and other black male political prisoners on Robben Island, while Thoms and Schoon were sent to Pretoria Local Prison, where the white male political prisoners were kept. (Prison, like everything else in South Africa, was strictly segregated.) The strain of his long sentence broke Thoms's spirit, and on his release he killed himself. While Schoon was in prison, and following their divorce, his first wife, Diana, had also committed suicide.

On his release in 1976, he joined the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party in exile. For a period, while living with his second wife Jeannette in Botswana after his release from jail, he was a contact for the underground ANC military wing, Umkhontu weSizwe.

He had met Jeannette, a former student and trade union activist, after his release from prison. Both were "banned" and prohibited from meeting each other, and they had in the customary way "skipped the border" and left South Africa illegally. It was while Schoon was working as a university teacher with the ANC in Lubango in southern Angola in 1984 that South African state asse under Major Craig Williamson, decided to kill him. Their chosen weapon was the parcel bomb. (The same technique, and the same assassin, killed the writer and political leader Ruth First in Mozambique in 1982. Williamson has also admitted responsibility for the bombing of ANC

headquarters in London the same year.) Schoon was away from their flat in Lubango when the parcel bomb arrived. It killed Jeannette and their six-year-old daughter, Katryn. Their son Fritz, then aged three, was found wandering nearby. Schoon's life was left in ruins.

Schoon, said Nelson Mandela. 'destroyed the myth that all Afrikaners were racists and oppressors'

Schoon had made a radical break from the ideology of apartheid when young. His father was an intellectual advocate of the apartheid system, a headteacher and both a zealous member of the National Party and a member of its secret guiding "brain", the Afrikaner Broederbond Schoon himself studied at the academy of the Afrikaner élite, the University of Stellenbosch, before transferring to the more liberal and radical culture of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. There he joined the non-racial Congress of Democrats, an organisation of white leftists allied to the ANC.

Not long before his release from prison in 1976, Schoon had the satisfaction of knowing that his father had publicly protested - at a National Party meeting - at Schoon's treatment in



Schoon spent 12 years from 1964 in prison in Pretoria

prison, and had resigned from the party to join the opposition Progressive Federal Party. Such strange things did happen in apartheid South Africa.

Schoon came through his losses, a scarred and battered survivor, caring for his son, and moved eventually to the Republic of Ireland. There he met and married Sherry McLean. After the downfall of apartheid, they returned to South Africa in 1990, where Schoon worked in the Development Bank, overseeing projects to help rural black communities. His friend and fellow political prisoner Hugh Lewin has said that he would "hate to describe him as a banker. He was far too much of a poet." Schoon wrote both in Afrikaans and in English.

Prior to the opening of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission last year, Schoon had begun a civil action against Craig Williamson for damages. By a very narrow margin, the court decided to withhold judgement, pending Williamson's application for amnesty to the TRC, on the grounds that the killing of Jeannette and Katryn was political. Schoon angrily rejected a suggestion from Williamson's lawyers that they meet "and reconcile". Judgement is expected later this month.

PAUL TREWHELA

Marius Schoon, political activist, teacher and poet: born Johannesburg, South Africa 22 June 1937; married first Diana Openshaw (one daughter; marriage dissolved), second Jeannette Curtis (died 1984; one son, and one daughter deceased), third Sherry McLean; died Johannesburg 7 Februaru 1999.

LITERARY NOTES

ANTHONY ANDERSON

Neither private joy nor public pleasure

EROTICISM IS in danger of straints which, in skilled extinction, a sad reflection on the eve of Valentine's Day. At least, that can be the only conclusion in a world where arousal is ruled by Interporn or, as it is also called, cyberporn.

Eroticism has been the most predictable and con-stant feature of mankind, and it is no surprise that in the poetry that has survived the centuries there is a considerable corpus of erotic verse. Homer needed very few words to suggest the erotic charge between the god of war and the goddess of love: Mars entering, seized her hand, hung on it, and thus urged his suit: "To bed, my fair, and let us love."

Sappho, Aristophanes, Anacreon, Euripides, Theocritus and other Greeks displayed the same need to arouse the senses with words before deeds; and what the poetry lacked in intimate detail it more than made up for in grace. This wasn't always true of the libidinously active Romans, who tended to more earthier flavours, sometimes edging near the graphic as in this excerpt from one of

What arms and shoulder did I touch and see. How apt her breasts were to be press'd by me. How smooth her belly under her waist saw L How large a leg and what a lusty

Yet the art of poetry imprudery of the society which

hands, heightens, not lessens the effect. This was why classical erotic verse had a profound influence on much later times. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Elizabethan age, where Spen-ser, Marlowe, Campion and Jonson rushed around, translating Ovid, Catullus and Ho-

race with unmistakable glee. Generally, we find that verse and prose produced by the 16th and 17th centuries is forthright on matters sexual. This is not to say that it lacks eloquence, but merely mirrors what was permitted by the conventions of the day. John Wilmot, Lord Rochester is a good example of the sexual freedom which came

Smiling, she chides in a kind murmuring noise And from her body wipes the clammy joys, When with a thousand kisses wandering o'er

The 18th and 19th centuries tend to use metaphor as a veil and this, once again, respects the conventions of the time: for Sheridan, in his poem "The Geranium", the plant is a suitably graphic and red - representation of the male genitalia in all its glory. To today's reader this has its amusing side – either in admiration at the often ingenious way in which sex is disguised or in mockery at the

But how to define the nature of erotic poetry? It is there in the very earliest literature - though it seems that the Sumerian and Egyptians saw sex as guilt-free but out of man's control as can be seen from this fragment of Egyptian poetry written over 30 centuries ago:

I found my lover on his bed. And my heart was sweet to excess I shall stroll with you

In every favourite place And in our time poets as different as John Betjeman and e.e. cummings expressed their views:

may i feel said he i'll squeal said she just once said he it's fun said she to symbolise the Restoration: It is not prudery that re-

volts at interporn; but the brazen no-holds-barred nature of Interporn can only blunt the sensitivity required to appreciate true eroticism. Eroticism, the wisp of a veil, is a private joy while the bawdy frolic is a public pleasure. But Interporn is neither - and probably only too closely related to the reduction in the male sperm count - or the sad tales of sexual dysfunction in the latest American sexual report published, alas. in time for Valentine's Day:

Anthony Anderson has compiled the audiobook recordings Classic Love Poetry' and 'Naked She Lay - Classic Erotic Verse (Naros AudioBooks, each

Gideon Rafael

GIDEON RAFAEL was one of the pioneers of Israeli diplomacy, and served as ambassador to London in the difficult years following the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Alongside his early chiefs, Moshe Sharett and Abba Eban, Rafael set a standard of independence and flexibility in pursuing Israel's cause that was not always appreciated by a succession of hard-headed prime ministers. For the last 20 years of his life, he was a trenchant critic of governments moving too slowly, or too grudgingly, towards peace. He was born in Berlin in 1913, the son

of a prosperous furrier, and escaped to France in 1933, two months after Hitler came to power. He made his way to British-ruled Palestine a year later. Like many of his generation of German immigrants, he entered the Zionist public service through intelligence. His first mission, in 1939, was to smuggle illegal immigrants from Europe. In 1940, he conducted abortive negotiations with Adolf Eichmann to save 40,000 German Jews.

During the Second World War, in cooperation with British intelligence, he interrogated Jewish fugitives reaching Palestine via Turkey and Syria. It was feared that some might be German rooms of the Labour Party's Tel Aviv



'Not on this plane, gentlemen'

spies. He also collected evidence on Nazi war criminals that was handed over to Allied prosecutors in 1945. After the war, he catalogued stolen Jewish property in Germany and Austria.

In 1947, Rafael cut his diplomatic teeth lobbying the United Nations for a Jewish state. When Israel gained its independence in 1948, he helped Sharett to set up the Foreign Ministry in two

draft cables seeking diplomatic recognition. "Keep them short," he urged. "There's not much in the kitty."

was the last head of the Israeli delegation to the 1949-50 Lausanne conference, when the United Nations brought Israeli, Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese delegations to the same city, but never around the same table. The Israelis did meet, secretly and separately, in obscure village coffee houses with all but their Syrian counterparts. "The meetings," Rafael recalled, "were friendly, but they only emphasised the gap separating us." The story was the same in clandestine contacts he maintained as head of the ministry's Middle East desk, from 1953 to 1957.

He once told me of a chance meeting with an Egyptian ambassador on a flight to New York. The Egyptian indicated that he wanted to talk and pointed towards the toilet. A sharp-eyed stewardess intercepted them. "Not on this plane, gentlemen," she said, and another chance went begging.

After serving as ambassador to Belgium and the European Community, Jerusalem 10 February 1999.

headquarters. Sharett assigned him to Rafael was appointed ambassador to the United Nations in 1967, The Six Day War tested his skill, ingenuity and stamina to the full in Israel's efforts, first to per-Rafael plunged into the quest for an suade the UN not to pull its peace force out of Sinai ture ceasefire when Israel was winning and finally to discourage the Security Council from demanding an uncondi tional Israeli withdrawal. He lost one and won two.

> Rafael returned to Jerusalem as Foreign Ministry director-general from 1968 to 1972 before a final posting as ambassador to London from 1973 to 1977. His autobiography, Destination Peace - three decades of Israeli foreign policy, was published by Weidenfeld &

> Nicolson in 1981. He continued writing and lecturing almost to the end and was willing source for historians and documentary film-makers.

Gideon Rafael, diplomat: born Berlin 5 March 1913; ambassador to the UN 1967-68; Director-General, Israeli Foreign Ministry 1968-72; ambassador to Britain 1973-77; married Nurit Weissberg (two sons, one daughter); died

The Samaritan on the road to Luton

necessitated such measures.

THE CALENDAR of world reli-din, I slackened my funerary gions is a crowded seaway. Festivals great and small sit nose to tail like cruisers plying a busy shipping lane. And it is premium time for sailings right now. As one school of Buddhism

prepares for Nirvana Day on Monday to mark the passing away from this world of the religion's founder, Gautama Buddha, Hindus are the same day getting set for Great Shiva Night, said to be the date on which Shiva the Destroyer performs the cosmic dance from creation to destruction. In addition this is the week in which Christians celebrate Ash Wednesday when the physical and spiritual discipline of Lent begins. But is there space for another festival in such a full programme? Perhaps. Just perhaps.

At least that's what came into my head this week during a chilly Monday morning rush hour on the (largely) unsympathetic streets of south London. That's when I figured I might just have witnessed the Descent of the Dove at the junction of Blackshaw Road and Maybury Street and thought the experience worth commemorating. Let me explain.

We had set off, my son and , late for school. Not hugely late, to be fair, but late enough it being on the first day of his exams - to raise the nervousess quotient from medium to high, given that 25 miles of unpredictable traffic along suburban roads and Home Counties freeway lay ahead. Given, too, that my trusted but tired Escort is showing signs of age.

On Monday, though, it played by the rules and we set off with reasonable hopes of making up time. Minutes into the journey our hopes were dashed as the eternal law of cause and ef-rigmarole of hauling out the fect - second-hand karma kicked in and the offside rear tyre burst. John and I didn't hear the pop but soon became aware of the subsequent, deafening thunder of metal on metal which sounded like, well . . . Great Shiva Night.

Ignoring the heads (by now rotating in formation) of emerging religions of the Indus passers-by looking in appalled fascination at the source of the couldn't loosen the fourth nut.

pace still further and, somewhere north of Luton, came to rest in a side street. It was here that my problems really began.

I got out and, like a weary man preparing for a halfmarathon, readied myself for the task ahead. As I stood by the immobilised assembly of rubber, metal, glass and plastic that had, minutes earlier, passed itself off convincingly as a vehicle, I looked around and saw for myself, in the faces of drivers. passengers and pedestrians alike, the cosmic indifference of those who have towards those who have not Solzhenitsyn's semi-fictional Ivan Denisovich

FAITH & REASON

TREVOR BARNES

Three major religious festivals occur this week - in the Hindu, Buddhist and Christian calendars.

But in our multicultural age it is perhaps time for a secular fourth

puts his finger on it when he says from his Arctic labour camp that a man who is warm cannot possibly imagine what it is like to be cold.

No matter, though, I thought (nervousness levels rising from high to severe), just change the wheel and get on with it. I went through the usual tedious, dirty spare, lying fully clothed on the road to position the lack before summoning the kind of explosive energy you really should not have to deploy in peacetime. But having thrice deployed it I hit against another of the unchanging laws of the cosmos doubtless prefigured in the Valley some 4,000 years ago, I

going nowhere. Instead, mired in the kind of helplessness from which philosophies and religions are born, I was forced to recognise my need, my simple reliance on something utterly outside myself. As drivers passed, each one eved this pathetic spectacle with an impassivity bordering on the psychotic. To be honest. I thought I saw a flicker of con-

Widening my son's vocabu-

lary by the minute, I persevered

to no avail. As the nervousness

factor now crept into the red. I

realised we were on our own.

Abandoned to our fate we were

cern in them all. But, caught up in their own pervous timetable they too were unable or unwilling to stop and help. Then, in a moment as glorious as it was unexpected, something unusual happened. Across the road a car was slowing down and a youngish lad of the hard school who under different circumstances - notably after dark would have suggested trouble wound down his window and asked after my well-being. Yes, he had a decent wheel brace: yes, he was prepared to get out and lend the muscle power; yes, in short, he would help.

My hand on his shoulder could not convey the gratitude I felt as he took his leave - a Rastafarian composite of the Lone Ranger and the Angel Gabriel squeezing into a red VW. I felt genuine affection. too, with more than a touch of shame and guilt at my readiness, under those "different circumstances", to sum him un and draw unreliable conclusions about his character.

There and then I resolved to inaugurate an addition to the festival calendar. It is to be known as Samaritan's Day, to be celebrated every 24 hours all year round, by all faiths and none, in recognition of those undeserved moments of transcendent ordinariness which confound our prejudice and against all the odds, persuade us that life is not all bad. Also known in the non-Christian world as Dependence Day, it would remind us that what we have we share, and what we give we receive.

Any chance, do you think, it might catch on?

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

OLIVER: On 11 February, to Roger and Ellen, a son, John Francis, a brother for Clare and

HALES: On 2 February 1999, to Breda Flaherty and Jonathan Hales, a fine son, Ben William.

Announcements for Gazette Announcements for daze of the BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are aborated at 88.50 a line (VAT charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette extra. Other Gazette amouncements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing. are charged at £10 a line,

in the second

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mr Michael Attenborough, principal associate director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 49; Dr David Atterton, chairman. Guinness Mahon Holdings. 72; Miss Caroline Blakiston. actress, 66; Mr Liam Brady, football manager, 43; Professor Derek Burke, former Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia, 69; Miss Jacqueline Clarke, actress. 57; Dr John Clayton, former Apothecary to HM Household, Windsor, 78; Miss Margaret Collins, former Matron-in-Chief, QARNNS, 72: Mr Gareth Davies, chairman and group chief executive, Glynwed International, 69; Miss Eileen Farrell, soprano, 79; Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 53; Baroness Flather, councillor and local

government worker, 65; Mr

Peter Gabriel, musician, 49;

Mr Arpád Göncz, president of Hungary, 77; Mr John Healey MP, 39; Dr David Hessayon, horticultural writer, 71; Lord Lewis of Newnham, Warden of Robinson College, Cambridge, 71: Mr John McAllion MP, 51; Miss Kim Novak, actress, 66; Lord Peyton of Yeovil, former government minister, 80; Lord Pym, former government minister, 77; Mr Oliver Reed, actor, 61; Miss Margaretta Scott, actress, 87; Mr George Segal, actor, 65; Dr Donald Sykes, former Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 68.

TOMORROW: Prince Hans Adam II of Liechtenstein, 54; The Right Rev Michael Ball, former Bishop of Truro, 67; The Right Rev Peter Ball, former Bishop of Gloucester, 67; Mr John Butterfill MP, 58: Professor Evelyn Ebsworth, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 66; Sir Arnold Elton,

consultant surgeon, 79; Sir Jack Hibbert, former director, Central Statistical Office, 67; Mr Kevin Keegan, football manager, 48; Mr Christopher Lillicrap, actor and musician, 50; Mr John MacGregor MP, 62: Miss Manuela Maleeva tennis player, 32; Miss Lois Maxwell, actress, 72; Lord Newby, 46, Mr Alan Parker, chairman, British Film Institute, 55; Mr Michael Rudman, theatre director and producer, 60; Dr Sir Albert Sloman, former Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, 78; Sir Nicol Stenhouse, former President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 88; Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman, English Heritage, 67; Mr Alexander Stewart-Moore, former chairman, Gallaher, 84; Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, chairman, Scottish Hydro-Electric, 64; Mrs Margaret Wright, former Chief Commissioner,

the Guide Association, 57.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Alexandra tomorrow attends a Gala Performance at the Wimbledon Theatre, London SW19, to celebrate the theatre's re-opening

CHANGING OF THE GUARD TODAY: The Household Cavalry
Mounted Regiment mounts the
Queen's Life Guard at Horse
Guards, 11am. TOMORROW: The
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard
at Horse Guards, 10am; 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at
Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band
provided by the Scots Guards.

LECTURES

TODAY Victoria and Albert Museum: Divia Patel, "Henri Cartier-Bresson in India and Asia", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Anne Harvey, "Record of a Woman: Felicia Dorothea

Hemans (1793-1835)", 1.10pm.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

The sound of silents

Glossy new prints of classic silent movies have provided Carl Davis with the opportunity to compose sumptuous new scores for them. His latest work is for Ernst Lubitsch's Old Heidelberg - and tonight he conducts it live for the first time. By Judith Palmer

don't know if Edward VIII got out to the cinema much, but I suspect some princely adviser or other should have tried a little harder to point him in the direction of Ernst Lubitsch's 1927 silent classic. Old Heidelberg. Set in a storybook German principality at the turn of he century, this dark romance explores the impossible love between a crown prince and a barmaid. Essential viewing for would-be kings and consorts everywhere, this poignant tale of passion and obligation gets a fresh airing at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday - the first time in over 70 years.

Old Heidelberg is the latest silent to get the Photoplay treatment - burnished up in a spanking new print to the live accompaniment of the London Philharmonic Orchestra as Carl Davis conducts the UK première of his luscious new score in an all-encompassing rush of strings and smouldering celluloid charisma.

It's nearly 20 years since Kevin Brownlow and the late David Gill teamed up with Carl Davis to restore Abel Gance's splitscreen epic, Napoleon. Since then they've created a pioneering repertoire of over 30 films: tracking down lost scenes, and editing back missing sequences, correcting film speeds, and commissioning potent new scores, to reinvigorate the most stunning movies of the silent era - from Garbo in Flesh and the Devil, to Valentino's The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Old Heidelberg may not be in quite the same tempestuous super-league, but Lubitsch (who later went on to direct Garbo in Ninotchka) transforms an off-the-peg love story into a far subtler dilemma, suggesting you can never go back and recap-ture the past. Under the "Lubitsch touch", the normally over-mannered Norma Shearer achieves a twinkly spontaneity, weaving through the beer-gardens with an ármful of brimming steinlagers, while the Latin matinee idol, "Ravishing" Ramon Novarro, creates a haunting figure of trapped isolation in servitude to the State is a film of outstandingly sophisticated, fluid chematography. As Billy Wilder noted, Brust Lubitsch "could do more with a losed door than most of today's directors dan do with an open fly". Based on Romberg's Broadway-smash

dperetta, The Student Prince, Lubitsch's version was banned from using either the ofiginal title or the original music. "It's a fabulous score," says Carl Davis, "so I thought I'd call the estate and see if they'd agree to let us use it in our revival." The Rombergians, however, were no happier



Carl Davis: 'We're emphatic that we're not a museum - we try to bring films to life

about the idea the second time around. "I started looking carefully at the film and found the titles were pervaded with musical references to other fabulous German songs – folk songs, drinking songs, university songs and duelling songs – so I decided that was the way in," he explains.

European film-makers such as Eisenstein issued their films with specific scores. but Hollywood was a lot more free and easy

with its musical accompaniments, usually allowing cinema orchestra leaders to rifle through volumes of mood music to pick suitable matches to a sheet of cues. Carl Davis composes his sumptuous scores with the same spirit of free-ranging gusto. "We're quite emphatic that we're not a museum - we try to bring the films to life," he says. "For Old Heidelberg, you should feel you're in the lighter movements of a

Romantic music - lush and gorgeous."

BBC's Pride and Prejudice, and is cur-rently scoring Mike Leigh's new Gilbert & to the strict requirements of a choreog-Sullivan biopic, is untroubled by critics rapher. Of course, you can still be yourself waving the word "pastiche". "It's the writing an Arab dance, or music for a low name of the game," he says. "It's like work-dance-hall scene. If you felt it was a strain, ing with theatre or ballet, you'll always in- you simply wouldn't do it. My view is that corporate a broader world of music into the music is there to push the whole thing

Mahler symphony. It's late German your vocabulary. I was thinking recently about Tchaikovsky - in Swan Lake he had Davis, who composed the music for the to write a Polonaise, a mazurka, a waltz

forward and make the film more effective. Personally, I think it's quite a lot of fun."

'Old Heidelberg', tonight, 7.30pm, RFH, South Bank, London SE1. Carl Davis gives a free pre-concert talk, 'The Magical Sound of Silents' at 6.15pm (0171-960 4242). A season celebrating the centenary of Ramon Novarro continues at the NFT until 25 February (0171-928 3232)

Great minds think alike (unfortunately)

DID RICHARD Dawkins, that hard- who Rodin's model for Le Penseur, and boiled, free-ranging, egg-headed Dar- whether Dawkins, though seemingly winian, resident in the City of Dreaming Spires, where be is known to some students as the Professor of Public Misunderstanding, ever pose naked for Auguste Rodin in a church such as this one? I asked myself this as I stared around the Central Hall, home to British Methodism.

It was an august occasion. Dawkins was down on a quick away-day to engage in spirited debate with Steven Pinker about whether or not science was killing the soul. Thousands - a couple at least - were in attendance. Gages had been exchanged. And then, all of a sudden, the whole thing fell flat as a punctured balloon. It was at that point that I began to speculate upon

voungish, could have been the chap: whether he had the muscles, the gravity, the embonpoint, the staving power for such a commission as that one? Whether, being a man of some eminence himself, he could have to the audience again, had mentioned, borne the tempestuous, bullying habits of Auguste Rodin... Round and round it went in my

mind, to the exclusion of almost all else, this small-scale, maddening obsession, like some crazed midge. But why this, and not the subject of

the debate itself? Because the affably bumbling and bespectacled science journalist who had introduced the two men to the audience, and the two men to each other, and the two men

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DEBATE

RICHARD DAWKINS AND STEVEN PINKER CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER

almost as if it were a matter of marginal importance - marginal importance indeed! - that, fundamentally, the idea of a debate between these two men was something of an absurdity because, by and large, they agreed with each other. They both knew that there was no such thing as a soul, and no such person as a God. They both knew that science was killing, or had already killed, that absurd idea - if by that word "soul" was meant some immaterial

able notion of soulfulness. They even felt perfectly comfortable to be voicing these brazen thoughts within reach of John Wesley's stern, admonitory finger, which, cast in marble, lay in wait for them beyond the door.

And so, that was it then: in spite of the fact that they were both mature, dyed-in-the-wool Darwinians, they had nothing to fight about. It was not a debate, but a kind of long exchange of congratulations for having thought so long and so hard in the service of genetics (Dawkins) and cognitive psychology (Pinker), with a bit of mutual back-scratching here and there.

For this reason, somewhat distracted and momentarily disappointed, I began to wonder whether

entity, and not the pleasingly accept- Dawkins, who when he sits or stands posed at the lectern, strikes such remarkably intellectual poses - finger on cheek; profoundly searching gazes into the middle distance; body curled forward with fist on chin, etc, etc; everything so beautifully posed and practised to create an overall impression that here is Pure Mind on the move - had, soul or no soul, been here before, and that Rodin had perhaps snapped him up after one quick, imperious glance down the Metro car.

Away Dawkins had been led, by two or three burly studio assistants, frogmarched to the Rue Varenne, and then stripped down to the birthday suit. The gravity was never in doubt - but

did he measure up?

MICHAEL GLOVER

ARTS DIARY

NOW HERE'S a phrase to

strike fear into the most hardened aesthete: the opera hypermarket. This disturbing vision of arias in bulk on a greenfield site comes from David Pountney, former head of productions at English National Opera. Pountney is giving the Royal Philharmonic Society lecture on the future of opera tonight; and in a discussion I had with him for tomorrow's Radio 3 programme. Music Motters, he said he looked forward to the opera hypermarket complete with cinemas and other entertainments, well away from city centres.

Pountney's radicalism doesn't stop there. He added that he could think of nothing worse than three-hour opera relays on television. "It's the most dreadful TV," he says. But isn't it government policy to show more of these as a way of increasing access? "Yes." he agreed, "but that's just the sort of ignorant thing they would say. They should keep out of things they don't understand." You could warm to this man.

is actor Paul McGann (below). He says he won't appear in any more theatre productions because of anxieties about performing in front of a live audience. He actually received rather good reviews for his performance in Snoo Wilson's Sabina at London's Bush theatre, but says the experience left him scarred: "I saw the audience piled on were clearly suffering." This must

ANOTHER MAN to warm to

top of each other. They be a first in theatre history. An

actor has actually said he is giving up stage work because he can no longer bear to see the audience in uncomfy seats. Good thing McGann hasn't worked the Traverse in Edinburgh where, like the Bush, you find out pretty quickly whether the person behind you has washed their socks recently. It's a dangerous precedent. If all actors showed such empathy with their audiences, theatres would close more quickly than under the Puritans.

MY ARTSPEAK award for the week goes to Oscarnominated John Madden director of Shakespeare In Love. It was good to see him at a press conference on Tuesday trouncing rumours that Gwyneth Paltrow was "aloof" on set. But when trouncing, it's best not to begin with the words: "Everyone has their own way of working." It sounds suspiciously like artspeak for "aloof".

JOHN MADDEN did have a

good answer, though, when asked how he would. celebrate if he won the best-picture Oscar "I'll take Spielberg out to dinner," he replied. That will make a memorably short acceptance speech. should he win. We're now in full acceptance-speech season, that time of year when we realise that the world's best actors can't muster a funny line between them. They should take note of an story told by Julie Christie at the **Evening Standard** Film Awards last

Sunday. When a French director was accepting a short-film prize, he said: "Short film; short speech;

thank-you."

THE INDEPENDENT ECKMAN TELESCOPIC LOPPERS WITH FREE RATCHET



Branches at least 11/4" thick or that are out of reach without the use of a ladder can now be pruned effortlessly with these superb quality heavy duty telescopic loppers from 'Eckman'.

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Hard habit to break

POULENC'S LAST operas could hardly be more different: Les diologues des Cormélites, a grand opera about nuns, their spiritual sublimity threatened by a very French revolution; La voix humaine, a tiny monologue in which a woman tortures herself by repeatedly phoning her lover, who wants to cut the connection forever.

Political and religious torment in one, private crisis in the other; and women the fulcrum of both. Poulenc identified completely with his female protagonist. "Blanche," he said of the novice at the centre of Dialogues, "was me, and is still me." Far from being the carefree charmer of musical legend, Poulenc, at least here, plumbed considerable per-

sonal depths. You might think La voix humaine the more likely project for student performance, but Trinity College is nothing if not ambitious and, in Poulenc's centenary year, its staging of Dialogues (sung in English) showed its musical strength in depth: a large orchestra and a cast of dozens gave their all, and if the drama was intermittent, some of the fault may be the opera's. Where Poulenc · saw saintliness in the nuns'

OPERA DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES

SPITALFIELDS MARKET LONDON

sacrifices, we might see only misguided waste, yet as the score lines the nuns up at the guillotine, only to deprive them one by one of their heads, it is impossible to remain unmoved. At this moment, Kresimir Dolencic's plain production finds its target.

Poulenc makes heavy demands of his singers, in simply keeping going. The vocal style. taking a lead from Debussy, is an inch away from conversational recitative, with vocal display at a minimum. The singers get through vast amounts of text, so communication is at a premium. These are voices with time to grow, and not everyone got their text across in Spitalfields' rather rich get richer, culture gets unyielding acoustic, but there poorer: a familiar story.

were several successes. There's not much room for men in Dialogues, but Benjamin Lake makes the marquis a burly, insensitive brute, just the kind of father to drive Blanche to the nunnery. When

there, she finds Edel O'Brien's remarkable Prioress, refusing to go gently into God's arms in a death scene of hair-raising intensity: a pity the libretto kills her off so early. Poulenc, though, wanted attention to focus on Blanche and here, in Ksenia Eremina Jones, ne has a singer to watch closely. Her diction is clear, she acts well, and the voice is bright, even and expressive: ingredients.

with a bit of luck thrown in, on

which to build a solid career. The performances benefited from the precisely sculpted conducting of Andrea Quinn, who also ensured that the orchestra got the measure of Poulenc's ebbing, flowing dramatic pulse. Over the past four years, Trinity's performances at Spitalfields have added considerably to London's operatic life. A shame, then, that for yet more "retail development", the Market Opera building will shortly be demolished. As the

Further performance of Dialogues', Spitalfields Market Opera, 4-5 Lamb Street, El. 7.30pm. Saturday 13 February,

NICK KIMBERLEY

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EXIT POLL

VISUAL ARTS

MONET IN THE

20TH CENTURY ROYAL ACADEMY LONDON

DAN CLANCY

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RACHEL





THE WEEK IN REVIEW

CRITICAL VIEW

BY FIONA STURGES

EXCELLENT

≟ GOOD





DEADLY

OVERVIEW

Following his debut In The Company Of Men, director Neil LaBute offers a brutal antidote to Valentine's Day with his account of sexual depravity and fractured

"LaBute is so much in love with the idea of people's selfish, despicable ways that he has overreached his means of attack; he has all the poison, but no darts," reported Anthony Quinn. "Heartless, hollow and only sporadically funny," wrote Time Out, adding "It's hard to commend a film that's so insistently, even arrogantly, in love with

the idea of hating humanity." The Daily Mail deemed it a "nasty satire on nasty people", but the Daily Telegraph were impressed: The film has the concentration of a stage play... Labute's dialogue has vitriolic force, and his actors deliver it well." "A state-of-the-art bulletin on the sex war," cried the Financial Times.

LaBute's loathing of humanity extends to women as he reveals them to be as heartless between the sheets as men. But their turpitude may be too much for even the most hardened viewers.

OUR VIEW

Your Friends and Neighbors is out on general release,

ON VIEW

THE PLAY THE TEMPEST

THE BOOK CHARLES BUKOWSKI

GARLES BIRLINGS Biographer Howard Sounes

THE TV PROGRAMME VICIOUS CIRCLE

THE FILM YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



In the final phase of the season with a resident company, Jude Kelly directs Sir lan McKellan as Prospero in a production of

16 years after their split

career, Deborah Harry reforms Blondie, marking

new album *No Exit* and

tells the story of cult writer Charles Bukowski's

colourful life, from early

his death in 1994 from

Kieran Prendiville's BBC

Stott, follows the nefar-

drama, starring Ken

ious exploits Martin Cahill, the Dublin gang-

ster known simply as

'The General".

childhood in Los Angeles to

their return with a

and after a fluctuating solo

"The production exerts a potent, if studiedly uncharming, spell," wrote Paul Taylor, commending McKellen's "exquisitely calibrated, low-key performance". "A brooding vision simmering with dangerous magic," said The Stage, adding that it was "an absorbing Tempest, a Tempest charged with excellence". "A strong start, but nothing that fol-

"A powerful comeback... as much due to

Jimmy Destri's ear for a surefire pop classic

as it is to Debbie's bewitching revivilication," exclaimed Andy Gill, adding: "Even at a time

when No 1 hits are as forgettable as ants.

"Maria" aiready sounds like you've known it

for ever," "If the band sometimes wallow in

This biography is a thorough introduction

that will not be rivalled for quite some time.

Its effect is to revitalise rather than reduce

solvent, humorous, sometimes sober, figure

sorter rather than turn to crime," noted The

Once or twice the film trod too heavily - at

one point, we saw Cahill poleaxed by the

beauty of a Goya portrait. But, by and large, Kieran Prendiville's script showed a

commendable reluctance to draw morals...

cool, intelligent, entertaining, and very wel-

come." "Stott made a convincingly unpleas-

ant Cahill, a cruel, clever, but dangerously

Bukowski's work," decided Guy Mannes-

Abbott: "The author does not neglect the

who eked out a living working as a mail-

nostalgia, theirs is a heritage worth re-ex-

lows quite matches it," complained the Financial Times, while The Times was not convinced; "The production strikes me as irredeemably second-rate, and though McKellen's performance is sometimes weirdly mesmerising, it isn't the illuminating Prospero one had hoped for." "Not wholly satisfactory," concluded the Daily Mail.

ploring," pronounced the Daily Mail, "This

merits cautious rejoicing... a pop goddess is still a pop goddess, after all, "remarked The

Guardian, while The Times observed: "a firm

artistic rationale for the group's return to ac-

Times, while The Guardian were impressed:

This biography can claim to be the most

definitive to date." "Bukowski's America is

careful to dispel all lazy comparisons with

Hunter S Thompson," wrote The Observer.

vain man," revealed The Times, while The

Mirror considered it: "a cops-and-robbers

thriller with witty one-liners thrown in for

light relief." "If it hadn't been based on real-

life events it would have been totally unbe-

lievable," cried The Sun. "As a thriller, Vicious

Circle failed in its first duty - to thrill,"

Powerfully researched" muttered the Times

particularly well explored, with Sounes

Literary Supplement.

grumbled the Daily Mail.

tive duty." "No Exit may break your heart

with its so-so, that'll-do, OK-ness, magic

doesn't do encores," murmured Uncut.

McKellen skilfully conveys Prospero's struggle between rage and culpability in this stylised version of Shakespeare's play, though the magical isle as a correctional institution may aggravate purists.

After an embarrassing series of

comebacks from Eighties icons,

Sources refrains from indulging

Though occasionally lacking in

subclety, Prendiville's script

avoided moralising, while

expectations were decidedly

low. But Harry's band have

created a contempo-

rary sound that still

of classic Blondie.

straightforward

writer's life from

Stott's crook was

so likeable that the

plot could be seen

as unbelievable,

were it not true

account of the

birth to death.

bears all the hallmarks

in the well-documented

peculiarities of Bukowski's

psyche, instead offering a

The Tempest is at the West Yorkshire Playhouse until 27 February. For bookings and enquiries call 0113-213 7700.

Blondie's No Exit will

be available in record

shops from Monday.

Charles Bukowski:

A Crazy Life by

Howard Sounes

in bookshops.

cle at present.

Locked in The Arms Of

(Rebel Inc) is available

The BBC has no plans

to repeat Vicious Cir-

con see on a poster. It was a good on a school trip, but because it was busy, it was hard for us to

the detail that can look blu

INGEBORG

see property suddenly the ncredibly vivid, the brush str

more emphatic, I trimk he acapit remarkably well. As a whole, the exhibition doesn't show a new Monet: it is how I have always imagined; the waterlilles, his garden. But I was overwhelmed his work as an old man.

DL SUTHERLAND F 56, teacher, London Being art illiterate, found the head set lecture very niormative, it is excellent to see all these paintings in one place. But you

need time to look at them, and I found it far too busy And the busy atmosphere was too much of a contrast to the painting that are soothing and reflective, would have been lovely if a little

Fish, flesh and good red herring

WHEN YOU consider the phenomenon of fin de siècle brooding, you tend to think of the hock- and selfzer-drinking classes, of Wilde, Beardsley and interestingly soiled bedlinen in the Savoy. You don't automatically think in Newlyn in 1896, a g everyone is brink of a new century.

comin up," declares Thomas Bolitho, be called in. merchant, magistrate, mine-owner and mayor. "Do you want the nineteen undreds to pass ya by and is a classic case of the voice of self-

interest disguised in the accents of paternalist solicitude.

The Riot dramatises a real-life dispute. The mackerel fishermen of Newlyn, all god-fearing Methodists. objected to the way their east-coast of angry Cornish fishermen. Nick rivals were being paid to work on the Darke's new play The Riot puts an Sabbath and to land fish, with the reexuberant bomb under such metro- sult that the prices were lowered for politan parochialism. The piece is set the rest of the week. The aggro terribly conscious of being on the mackerel into the harbour) escalated and turned into a deadly battle be-We got the nineteen undreds tween rival towns. The army had to

In Mike Shepherd's vibrant production, the piece is performed by Cornwall's crack Kneehigh Compadock in Plymouth?" His question ny whose brand of physicalised, bracingly irreverent ensemble work much to my taste. So it feels a bit unout of work, they sought employment Booking to 10 April (0171-452 3000)

THEATRE

THE RIOT ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE LONDON

was last seen in London when they brought Darke's King of Prussia to the Donmar Warehouse's 1996 "Four Corners" season. Now this highly specific performances on cliff-tops and in quarries, has linked up with the National to push home the point that, Miro remarked, "To be truly uni-

versal, you must be truly local". A dark-edged agit-prop romp which replays these grim events as buoyant bloody farce, The Riot is very

grateful to confess that I kept wishing that, instead of importing the show into the Cottesloe, the National had organised a fleet of buses to take London punters down to see it outside *in situ* in Penzance.

Still, this is very much the next best thing. With Brechtian Methodist hymns at the harmonium infiltrated by tribal drumming and assegaievents in Cornwall are shadowed by parallel unrest in colonial Africa, to which many local miners were forced to emigrate because of pit closures. Not that there's any shortage of knockabout culture-clash on the to a special Sunday performance. home front. Darke shows how when the female stonebreakers were put

as domestics in the homes of the very toffs who had dispossessed them. And pipe-smoking profanity was not the first thing the nobs were looking for in a maid. With an elderly mother played as

a bombazined drag act, mock-deaths staged with the aid of tomato chutney and an eleventh-hour reprieve for capitalism as it stands with a noose Riot could certainly be said to subscribe to the cock-up theory of history. I think it would be a lovely gesture if the National were to invite The Lord's Day Observance Society PAUL TAYLOR



'The Riot': a dark-edged agit-prop romp

Geraint Lewis

COMEDY

GASLIGHT CLUB

PETERBOROUGH

12 reasons why, and they showed

soon had the confidence to plunge

into the audience and conduct the

show from a table-top in the mid-

dle of the room. He was even able

to make light of the fact that he'd

forgotten to bring his microphone

from the stage. "It's like sex

without a condom. So I probably

He sealed the rapport with the

won't last as long as I planned to."

punters by ganging up with them against a bloke who was bran-

dishing a mobile phone. Bloom

ended up commandeering it and offering advice to its owner about

its dodgy reception: "Next time

the phone company sends you a

bill, write out a cheque and

Tippex out every third word."

With shades of Phil Kay, he

me on all their fingers."

The world's greatest jumble sale

ONE MIGHT hope that Manhattan One can bid on the hundreds of would be untouched by this winter's anti-urban and somewhat depressing new trend, shopping online. But lately New York's fashion class has started looking online at the Web auction house eBay for what they call "Eames-era" drinking glasses, thriftstore paintings and barely worn Tocca dresses. "It is fashionable in New York circles," says Judith Newrecently documented her obeissance come in strong early in a bid." to eBay in The New York Times.

on eBay I become a shopping warbecause they can collect according to their mania without feeling precious and 'arty."

On eBay, one can sell anything, as long as it's legal and the company takes up to five per cent of each sale.

thousands of objects on the site, and the highest bidder wins. The company claims that there have been 155 million bids on over 40 mil-

lion items in just over three years. "My friends are mostly New York writers and they shop on eBays," says Nancy Kalish, a Brooklyn writer, who spends two hours a week on it. "We talk about bidding strategy, deman, a New York-based writer who bating whether or not it's better to

Upper East Sider Diane MacFar-"I like it for its anonymity. I'm a lane hangs around Ebay's Jewelry mild-mannered passive person, but Chatroom, and Jerry Spiegler, a New York New Media attorney who rior," declares Newman. "Men like it collects mid-century Italian and German art pottery, logs on constantly to search for additional pieces of work. He's bought nearly 300 items in the last year and a half.

But what does it mean, now that Newman and the rest are exhibiting NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

their collectivitis at this on-line jumble sale? What of New York's real streets teeming with antique stores and markets? After all, in what was once Manhattan's Little Italy and is now NoLiTa, you can find the same astral 60's lamps, bad amateur paintings that have been given upmarket status because of their resemblance to contemporary painters, and vintage couches re-uphoistered in "the Prada fabric" that you can find on eBay, only in nicer condition.

But it's the very ubiquity of upscale kitsch in Manhattan, with all the stores that specialise in a certain make of 50's blonde furniture and know the appeal of 60's Grove Press paperbacks and 80's East Village literary magazines, that's inspiring many New Yorkers to enter America's virtual shopping world.

Ebay's Beanie Baby enthusiasts. doll-house doyens, and more marginal collectors, like the dominatrix who bought a Minnie Mouse purse on eBay for her slave, seem rusticated in comparision.

I must confess that I hope to encounter North Carolinians and Nebraskans selling their ancient board games and Mason jars cheaply and unironically, and I stare at the photos of green plastic lamps in someone's

house in Virginia with a co-optive zeal. Kalish says that her best deal was buying a Mission-style mirror "from a woman in Kentucky for half the price it would have cost from an antique store." Spiegler, meanwhile, wound up buying some post-war pottery on eBay for \$40 from a naïve seller before making a tidy profit by reselling it in the virtual auction house for \$200. It took a New York freelance journalist named Todd Levin to bring irony to eBay. Recently, Levin attended an award ceremony for the Cool Website of the Year, and collected eBay's prize for "coolest shopping site," though he had no relation to the company. Levin then sold eBay's award - on eBay itself.

eBay is at: www.ebay.com

voice for Abelard: the tremulous WHEN A young tutor fancies his pupil, and she him, and there's no whining of someone who'd been forcibly prevented from one else around, then they can committing further sins, but who sometimes end up in

suspected he may be sent to Hell

separate was just one of the

functions of workhouses in 19th-

Dickerson was caught throwing

bread to her bushand over the

wall that divided them, she was

sentenced to six hours in a

punishment cell. Life in the

told this and other stories of

Workhouse (Radio 4, Monday)

century Britain. When Honor

compromising positions. all the same. Meanwhile, Lynsey Especially if he's been given the Baxter was suitably contrite as additional task of administering Heloise, wailing desperately that "discipline" as and when she was "the wretchedest woman required. Such was the in Christendom". Yes, well if the pleasurable existence of Abelard two of them had had a little more and Heloise until her uncle self-control they wouldn't have caught them at it. And 12thgot into trouble in the first place. century France being what it was, they paid dearly for their sins. Keeping men and women

She ended up in a nunnery, he was castrated, and they spent the rest of their years apologising to each other by letter. Abelard and Heloise (Radio 4, Wednesday) portrayed the doomed lovers in later years, separated by monastic walls and competing to save their souls with confessions. Anton Lesser had the perfect

THE WEEK IN RADIO



MAGNUS MILLS

social deprivation, sometimes from the mouths of people who'd actually been born there. One old girl had done 41 years in the laundry, resulting in severe arthritis, but none the less sounded alarmingly jolly: "All the others have died, poor things,"

she said. "Ooh, we had some fun." Another voice came from the side of authority. An elderly matron remembered going round the dormitories issuing a sweet here and a bun there. "We must have been very unpopular," she acknowledged. Not as unpopular

as the unmarried mother of two who was determined to live in the married quarters. For some reason the married women didn't want her among them, but she won the day by wedding a onelegged man. After that, they had no choice but to accept her. The one-legged man, however, lived

somewhere else. The Marquis of Worcester, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Craven and the Lord Palmerston may sound like a list of pubs, but they were actually the customers of Harriette Wilson (1786-1855). The

The state of the s

greatest of all London courtesans once said "no" to the Prince of Wales, but most of the time she said "yes". Her career was recounted in The True Memoirs of Harriette Wilson (Radio 4, Monday). Played maturely by Julia St John, Miss Wilson confessed that the depravity of her heart was the main driving force behind her exertions. At one point it sounded as if penetrative sex was being had on the wireless, but it can't have been because it was only 10 to three in the afternoon. When she lost her looks, Harriette Wilson was induced to tell all to a drooling public, and her famous clients were invited to be left out of her

memoirs, for a suitable fee. "Publish and be damned!" replied the Duke of Wellington. She did, and most probably was.

One man and his mike

IT'S WHAT you might call the "Td like to have a drink with that bloke" factor. It doesn't matter what some rare comedians talk about on stage, people just want to bathe in their presence. So however much nonsense Eddie Izzard spouts about skiing elephants or secret-agent socks, audiences will lap it up. It's a case of "Never mind

the material, feel the warmth". The young, yarn-spinning comedian Adam Bloom is scarcely in the Izzard class - who is? - but there is a similarity in that people do seem to relish being in the same room as him.

Admittedly, Bloom's one-manand-his-mike approach is seen in some circles as hopelessly oldfashioned, and his choice of subject matter is never going to set the world alight. During his show at the Gaslight Club in Peterborough last Sunday night, he managed to fit in two of the world's most done-to-death stand-up topics, McDonald's and bottoms, within a few minutes. Later, I found myself thinking, "Not another comedian riffing about a tiff with his girlfriend."

For all that, his inclusive, ungimmicky style reminded us that you don't have to dress up as. say, a security guard or a Page 3 girl in order to win an audience over. Infectious enthusiasm will do it every time.

Commanding a room is, of looks, but Bloom got off to a fly- suited to hosting a BBC 1 game ing start at Peterborough with that old stand-up standby, insulting the neighbouring town. "I

Beyond the banter, Bloom is also capable of more challenging material. At one point, he mused: "There's one subject that's never discussed in comedy, and that's disabled people" - this was greeted by silence - "and that's why."

Bloom was recently voted stand-up of the year by Time Out magazine, and greater things no doubt await him. His mainstream, cheeky-chappie percourse, much harder than it sona would, for instance, be wellshow. Didn't he do well?

JAMES RAMPTON

was in Wisbech last night," he told Adom Bloom is on nationwide us. "They hate you lot. They had tour until March



Fangs for the memory

Jeremy Seal travelled to confront his worst fear - but snakes still terrify him. By E Jane Dickson

eremy Seal is not the kind to travel hopefully. Indeed, for a travel writer, he shows a marked mistrust of the open road: "Tearing around a country and picking up on whatever strikes you as interesting smacks of desperation to me. The classic travel-writing model is driven by having to move on all the time, the implication being that otherwise you run out of things to say, and I'm very suspicious of that. If you stay in one place and dig deeper, there is always more to write about." Seal's first book, A Fez of The Heart, per-

formed a kind of archaeology on the soul of modern Turkey, meticulousy exposing layer after layer of cultural and political sediment. Bottomless curiosity, lightly worn scholarship and a ready stock of jokes drew comparisons between Bruce Chatwin and Seal as luminaries of New Travel Writing.

His second book, The Snakebite Survivors' Club (Picador, £16.99), strays even farther from the classic travelogue in so much as it is less about a physical journey than an emotional odyssey. The subtitle, "travels among serpents", suggests the cane-swishing derring-do of 19th-century explorers, a tradition the writer comprehensively subverts. Seal, you see, is scared of snakes.

"Tve always had this thing about snakes; they exercise a particular kind of horror, that sense of being simultaneously fasci-nated and repulsed. And I'm particularly scared of them when I'm in snakey places."

Four snakey places - Africa, India, Australia and the rattlesnake belt of the American South - provide the settings for Seal's herpetological explorations, but the places are not the point. "The snakes are more important than the destinations I go to," acknowledges Seal. "I chose a multiplicity of settings because I wanted to show the universality of the hold snakes have on our imagination. Nobody is neutral about snakes; wherever you go in the world they have this mythological aura and they are used in so many different ways to define dif-ferent attitudes to life."

The snakebite survivors Seal homes in on amply prove his point. There is the Alabama sect which handles rattlesnakes as a test of their fundamentalist Christian faith; then there are the white settlers in Kenya, pitching their colonial sang-froid against a culture in which snakes are "sent" by witch doctors to avenge evil; white Australians, who take the relatively uncomplicated view that snakes are pesky buggers to be knocked on the head; and the snake cults of Southern India, for which serpents are both death-dealers and divinities.

"I had to be selective," says Seal. "Mexhas the Far East, but I felt I had to keep to areas where English is widely spoken. To try and get to the bottom of how people feel about snakes in a language I don't properly understand would have been foolhardy.

There is no question of where Seal's sympathies lie. When I first started researching this book, I wrote to a lot of people in the herpetological community for advice and a fair number of them wrote back and said, 'I'm really worried about what you're doing here, because I think you're going to demonise these beautiful creatures', and I thought, 'Well, you're absolutely right. They are demons.'

"I can see how much more enlightened and subtle and holistic the Indian attitude



JEREMY SEAL, A BIOGRAPHY

Somerset, the son of a naval officer. He taught English as a Foreign Language in Turkey before working as publicist and editorial assistant for Chatto & Windus. After 1989, when the

replaced by "American marketing men", he says that he "knew it was time to get out". He is now a full-time writer. His first book, A Fez of The Heart (about Turkey), was published in 1995

Award. The Snakebite Survivors' Club is his second title and be also writes travel articles for national newspapers. Jeremy Seal lives in Gloucestershire with his wife and daughter.

is. I love the way the cobra is redeemed in that country, but emotionally, I just don't buy it. I was shocked on the other hand, at how readily I accepted the whole serpent-as-Satan idea in Alabama. When it comes to snakes, I'm with the nutters."

The Alabama chapters of the book are accordingly charged with a particular power. Seal imaginatively recreates the sensational trial in 1996 of a snake-handling

zealot who tried to murder his wife by forcing her hand into a box of angry rattlesnakes. Seal's ear for dialogue and empathetic descriptions bring him bang up

to the frontiers of fiction. "I find myself pulled more and more in that direction," he says. "Every strand of my snake research revealed stories that were just crying out to be put in a novel. It was hard at times, to keep my focus."

"Focus" and "motive" are the watchwords of the New Travel Writing. A Fez of the Heart was a kind of forensic quest to find the last bong-fide fez-wearer in Turkey. and 300 years of Turkish history were illuminated as Seal charted the rise and fall of the brimless hat. (Brim = secularism in

a country where you touch your forehead to the ground to pray.) The snake, however is a less discrete

metaphor; and marshalling a thousand and one references and resonances into a compelling yarn without once resorting to footnotes requires a particular, graceful talent. Fear is the driving engine, and Seal's appalled fascination never falters.

In the course of the book, we are exposed gain and again to the particular horrors of the world's most venomous snakes like some kind of literary aversion therapy. We gradually acquire an uneasy expertise with the habits and temperaments of the taipan, mamba, rattlesnake and cobra. But the awful mystery of these snakes re-

"Before I set out, I went on a phobia management course at London Zoo", Seal recalls, "where a herpetologist comes and tells you that your fear is irrational and silly and then you all get hypnotised and trot round to the reptile house to make friends with the snakes. I stopped short of being hypnotised, because I had a strong feeling that if I lost my fear it would take away the motive for the whole book."

The preoccupation with "motive", he argues, is a modern necessity for travel writers. "People have started talking about quest travel writing in the last few years, and it's a kind of pejorative title," says Seal.
"It's as if the classic idea of travel writing is the venerable one and we are lazy young upstarts trying to cheat and find short-cuts. The old heroic mode of explor-ing foreign parts was about making a country your own, probably even giving parts of it your name. All travel writers had to do was turn up and keep a journal and they knew that people would be interested in what they said simply because it was new and exotic."

Apart from the best pair of snake boots money could buy (an accourrement that provoked much ridicule in countries where everyone wears flip-flops) and an ashwood talisman (hermetic against snakes), Seal travelled with the minimum of professional paraphernalia. Even a notebook, he feels, gets in the way of the story. "I don't take notes," he explains. "I just remember all the best bits and then dredge them up months later when I sit down to write. I think it helps to let your material salt down for a while. Patrick Leigh-Fermor didn't write about his journeys until years after the event and that is some of the freshest travel writing I have ever read."

Seal refuses to become sentimental about the fact that some of the world's most impressive snakes are now too attractions on the tourist trail. The snake parks of Kenya, where his African chapters are set, are entirely geared to the local tourist economy. "Even today there is a style of travel writer who is loath to admit that mass tourism has happened, who wants to give the impression they are somewhere no one has ever been, and I find that vaguely dishonourable. The entire point of modern travel writing is that the world is travelled."

Seal's theory will be tested by his next expedition, a mere two-hour jaunt down the line from Bath, where he lives with his wife and 15-month-old daughter, to the Cornish coast where he is researching an imaginative history of shipwrecks and their impact on the local psyche. The thought of having to machete his way through throngs of trippers to get to his subject does not depress him. Beyond the ice cream-andchip line lies Seal's terra nova. "Just because people are there," he insists. "doesn't mean that it's discovered."

COVER **STORIES**



PUBLISHERS WILL not want to be too up-front about it, but the coming months will see a steady repackaging of the Iris Murdoch oeuvre. Handily for Random House (which includes her hardback publishers. Chatto), her paperback rights have all but reverted from Penguin; Vintage will publish her in soft covers. Meanwhile, Peter Conradi, an academic and long-standing friend, is at work on an authorised biography, which was bought by HarperCollins last autumn. Dame Judi Dench has been named as the actress who will play Murdoch in the screen version of John Bayley's touching memoir, Iris.

IT'S QUITE a relief to know that Sir Edward Heath, whose memoirs took such a long time to write, has been rewarded for his efforts (aside, that is, from the £350,000-odd Hodder added to his bank account). At the Channel 4/House Magazine Political Awards, the old curmudgeon beat off competition from, among others, Hugo Young and Douglas Hurd to win a glass statuette for Political Book of the Year - at least according to the customers at Politico's Westminster bookshop. Presenting the baubles, lanky newscaster Jon Snow confessed that he had first thought the book was called The Curse of My Life. The audience laughed but Heath remained mpassive, appalled at yet another reference to the woman whom he refuses to call anything other than plain Mrs Thatcher.

PJS, THE trendy Covent Garden American-style restaurant, seemed an inappropriate setting for the launch of a book by one of Britain's greatest eccentrics, Dr Patrick Moore. His subject this time is Mars, which led one to speculate on the xylophonist's musical offerings: Bowie's "Life on Mars" or (more Moore's era) 'Fly Me to the Moon"? Moore opted for his own compositions. released shortly on a CD from the Scottish National Orchestra, "It's coming out on my birthday," he told me excitedly, as his monocle dropped into his wineglass.

THE YEAR-END accounts of O'Mara Books make interesting reading. To March last year, sales grow from £2.9m to £8.17m; profit to £1.2m against a previous loss of E376,084. The reason? A Paris car crash which "freed" Andrew Morton to recast his Diana biography in her own words. O'Mara is pessimistic about the future of royal publishing; all his hopes are now pinned to Morton's collaboration with Ms Lewinsky. Will they wax lyrical about their shared love of TS Eliot?

THE LITERATOR

Please be my Virtual Valentine...

... but what happens when the passionate cybersex turns sour? Peter Jukes joins the community of online swingers who composed a dark romance in the digital domain

THE INTERNET is pure sex. prose. By typing in commands Forget its notoriety for pornography; something much more interactive is happening. Probably the most prolific parts of the Web are its chat networks. in which strangers exchange small talk and then engage in more intimate contact: cybersex and online assignations.

The erotic potential of the Internet probably exceeds its commercial potential. Now used by women almost as much as men, it offers a dark space of disguises and metamorphoses, where meaningful glances are raised, where couples court and couple. The Tora Hanks Meg Ryan movie You've Got Mail celebrates this journey from retail to romance. And Julian Dibbell's book shows how cyberspace became a clearing-house for desire.

Ostensibly a history of a pioneering online community, My Tiny Life is Dibbell's novelised account of his own passionate obsession with virtual worlds, and its real-life repercussions with his partner. Her rival was LambdaMOO, a tiny virtual universe, carved out of text and computer code on a server in Palo Alto. Once opened to the Internet, hundreds of strangers started pouring in through its portals. It is hard to describe this tiny

text-based universe in linear

scriptions of objects, rooms, streets - anything that can be constructed in words. Sometimes, these are animated in programmed subroutines, so that asking for a cappuccino can launch a mini prose-poem about its taste and effect. As you enter the author's own Garden of Forking Paths, a programme uses the I Ching to determine each direction. Most importantly, you can encounter other personas, such as exu. Niacin or Horton Who: characters who seem equally at home discussing Baudrillard as they are with computer code.

Though a species of journalism, this account of a factitious universe begins to feel like a picaresque novel by Rabelais, rewritten by Pynchon and Tolkien. Unlike a novel, however, this fiction is a collective edifice, built by hundreds of individuals in a city of words.

Sex is a vital ingredient. The book opens with an account of a celebrated case of virtual rape, when the persona of "Doctor Bungle" used a voodoo doll to force other citizens to violate themselves in several graphic ways. His "crime" took place just after the historic decision of the Wizards (lead programmers) to drop their The rest of the book exampriestly powers. Instead of an ines other elements of "tiny



My Tiny Life by Julian Dibbell Fourth Estate, £16.99, 336pp

elite laying down the law, the community had to decide democratically if Bungle had committed a crime that merited being "toaded": having his identity erased, the virtual equivalent of capital punishment.

This opening essay has all the hallmarks of becoming a classic for anyone interested in this new terrain of virtual exploitation. Starting from Foucault's assertion that sex is as much an exchange of signs as of bodily fluids, Dibbell proceeds to demolish the concept of "free speech" as a defence of

pornography or libel. In this empire of signs, words are indistinguishable from actions.

life". Dibbell's explores Tiny-Geography and has a foray into TinyGender with the adoption of a female persona, Samantha. As for TinySex, Dibbeil holds back on his own long cybersex session with "S" until well towards the end.

One of the problems of turning a parallel and interactive world into a linear book is that the feeling of total immersion is lost. On line, you don't know where the next line is coming from: it emerges, letter by letter, with the hot press of speech. In cold text, the idiosyncrasies of the characters can seem false, and Dibbell's languorous style does not quite prevent some of their concerns

seeming overwrought. But he has a trick up his sleeve. While the VR world is described like a realistic novel, he renders RL (real life) in the same format as an online game. The staccato result is unexpectedly compelling, particularly when he describes his own inability to "commit" to his partner, Jessica, and she counters his virtual infidelities with real ones of her own. The quality of the writing is so potent at times, it makes you long for a proper novel by Dibbell.

My Tiny Life contains many thoughtful connections between virtual reality and its prototypes in maps or games. A beautiful passage compares the fictional quality of the digital domain with the equally fictional notion of borders. Birds or grasses might not recognise these arbitrary squiggles on the map, but human culture does and it goes on to reshape reality along its own lines.

Which brings us back to sex perhaps the most contested borderline between biology and culture. Dibbell shows how they are hard to separate. His remote infidelity only serves to make him more aware of the preciousness of his partner. He chooses atoms over bytes, RL over VR. but the distinction is not always so simple to make.

William Gibson wrote the first novels about cyberspace over a decade ago; Dibbell's non-fiction book is the first novel by cyberspace. It certainly won't be the last. What new genres this electrification of the word will engender is, thanks to Dibbell, clearer to see: they will be recapitulations of old genres.

My Tiny Life places cybersex in a continuum of erotic symbolism, going back through the epistolary novel at least as far as La Roman de la Rose. It shows how virtual desire is another variant of the convention of courtly love, with passion clinging to, but also trying to supersede, the insufficiency of words and images.

Signal failures for the paranoid producers

Nicholas Royle tunes in to trouble on the studio floor

CHRIS PALING is the literary authority on male breakdown and midlife crisis. He demonstrated this in his third novel. Morning All Day: a big step up from the flawed but enjoyable Deserters, which itself had the hard task of following the acclaimed After the Raid. Now, in The Silent Sentry, he picks through the wreckage of Maurice Reid's disastrous life. showing all the compassion we have come to expect but with added wit and a well-judged sense of comic timing. If there are fewer laughs, Paling's sense of humour does remain intact, making sure the effect of the concatenation of disaster is not merely to numb.

A radio producer at the Corporation, Maurice is keeping his head down while the winds of change whistle round the corridors of power. For a man who discovered his wife and another woman coated in flour while "performing cunnilingus complicatedly on each other" on the kitchen floor and who finds himself homeless when his girlfriend kicks him out of her flat

he's notably chipper. He may be a victim, but he's a survivor, too. Keeping him sane - just - is his contact with his young son, whom he sees all too rarely. The changes at the Corporation are a constant, vague threat; of



by Chris Paling Jonathan Cape, £9.99, 248pp

the machinations of colleagues. Why is fellow producer Warde suddenly behaving so oddly? What might his editor, "Peculiar" Edwards, be planning? Which way will Elaine, alternately motherly and predatory. swing? Whom should Maurice trust with the rumours about presenter Roy May and a girl in a hotel room? Not Val. who pinched Maurice's wife and earns her crust in the tabloids.

The squalid specifics of working for the BBC? toilet-bowl realism - the filthy flat where Maurice rents a room, the tart he picks up in a pub, the bloody broken nose are thrown into sharper relief by such beautiful ideas as Edwards's planned "White Symmore immediate concern are phony", an hour of radio

as the smoke of a woman's cigarette trailing "over her shoul-der like a steam train".

The novel is also richly textured with visual details of the audible medium: the blue baize and blue plugs, big German tape decks, a "long, sleek flight desk with thirty faders". The level of verisimilitude is maintained when it comes to the producers themselves. Radio virgins entering a studio to be interviewed for the first time will be a little less naive if they have read Paling's novel.

The author, of course, works in BBC Radio, although the jacket blurb coyly fails to record the fact. It's an irony that will not be lost on him that any possible radio feature on his novel, which will no doubt be closely read by BBC producers, is unlikely to reach the airwaves. And if it does, and the powers that be catch R4's Front Row in the limo on the way home and hear what life is like down on the studio floor, who knows how much longer Paling will be

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The men who sold the world

Where have all the spies gone? Into corporations, every one. Christopher Hope is stirred, but not shaken, by the outcome

ONCE UPON a time, back in the Cold War when politicians ruled the world, they had a powerful claim on our attentions. They had the means to kill us all. And their secret agents - the "lonely deciders" as John Le Carré calls them in a telling phrase in his new novel - played a deadly game. The stakes were high: peace, or mutually assured destruction. Even so, there was a settled quality to things: "we" were here and the "Sovs" were there. In between the parties moved the secret go-betweens in their melancholy grandeur. In the Cold War, spies were hot: they made news, they made war, they made great fiction.

Then the world changed. The Berlin Wall fell, the Sovs collapsed and things were never the same. Anyway, the record suggests that real spies were pretty duff at the real thing. When the Wall came down, the secret watchers were as astonished as the rest of us.

On Russia, their record is even worse. They missed what was staring them in the face. Any interested visitor, walking about in Moscow in the late 1980s, or sitting in Russian kitchens listening to the frantic talk of anguished Muscovites, felt that the show was over. Though the agency denies it now, the CIA billions never found that out, never walked in the streets, apparently never simply looked and listened.

It was Le Carré, about that time, who suggested with brilliant perversity that maybe the Russians didn't have what it took. In The Russia House, a book almost as savage as Single & Single, he put forward the notion that perhaps "the Sovs" were not really a nation of rocket scientists, all superbly tooled up and raring to run the planet.

That thought did sometimes occur to travellers holed up in the Ukraina Hotel. trying to fix an electric plug. But it was a detestable heresy in intelligence circles, where egos were as bloated as the budgets on which they thrived. In any case, the point about the Russians was that we needed them. Those people were some sort of solution.

Then the Empire flew apart. So who runs the world now? Or, put it this way: who is as venal, merciless, crooked as the power-brokers on both sides? Single & Single points us to the financial buccaneers, the bankers, brokers, the boys in bright braces dealing in complex financial



Single & Single by John Le Carré Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99, 336pp

gone? Into corporations, every one. After the Cold War, cold-hearted commerce is king. When the hedge funds wilt, babies starve. When currency speculators move in, nations go to the wall.

Enter Tiger Single, creator and masterspirit of the venture-capital house of Single & Single. Tiger is jaunty, charismatic. arrogant, crooked, instantly recognisable and utterly of our time; the essence of the corporate raider, the gallant asset-stripper.

Tiger's urge is great and simple: to convert the new Russia to the new capitalism. And the financial press - Le Carré has the fawning tone exactly - excitedly parrots his mission, his canting sermons on progress. "The Greatest Challenge to the Commercial World today... is the birth of a marketoriented Soviet Union." Therefore the House of Single will be the "facilitator". It offers "solid long-term partnership without exploitation".

What it means is that Tiger Single plans to do for the old Soviet Union what George Soros did for world currencies. Or Nike for factory prices. Or Swiss banks for Jewish gold. If you thought the old days were bad, welcome to heaven as declared by the hedge funds, the universe run by money men, the men who put the "con" in economics. If the old political bosses happily offered to trade their mothers in the interests of "world peace", take a look at the new lot. Tiger Single would not simply offer; Tiger Single would deliver.

Le Carré parades for our delectation as convincing a line-up of prominent shits as ever read a balance sheet or restructured an economy. The novel opens when a corporate lawyer has his head blown off in a

grisly comic execution on a Turkish hillside. From there on it is all go: the action shifts between London, Russia, Dorset and the wilds of Georgia.

There is the Georgian Mafia, and former Russian spies turned entrepreneurs. There is all Le Carré's deeply satisfying detail. There is Tiger's son, Oliver, raised to run his dad's show when the old man steps down - and suddenly having doubts about Tiger's tender desire to save Russia for capitalism. When young Oliver beats the odious Swiss lawyer, Herr Stampfli, we cheer him on.

Tiger Single is a wonderful creation. He is not merely an insufferable bastard; he is rather likeable in his arrogance. Shaved by Trumper, shod by Lobb, phoney from start to finish. He is also, God help us, a missionary, out to convert the heathen into profit. He is ready to trade in everything from human souls to good, clean Caucasian blood, from the vein of exhausted, bankrupt Russians. Le Carré has always drawn and felt his Russians superbly well: Single & Single does beautifully the madness, the greatness, the vodka, the dark heart.

There is Brock, the patient spy-master of The Russia House, now older and wiser. But times have changed and it shows. Brock has all the instincts of the Cold War controller of agents in the field. But his new role as a kind of super-sleuth on the track of off-shore accounts and financial scams seems to fit him as uncomfortably as the customs uniform he so seldom wears. Single & Single is, one comes to realise

a kind of revenge comedy. This is the new world order and Le Carré kicks it around very satisfactorily. But there is a limit to how excited you can get about offshore holdings.

Money-laundering and money grabbing are dull. We may be appalled by Tiger Single and his innovative ways of making a killing, but we are hardly surprised. When W H Auden remarked, of the brokers, that they spent their time roaring like beasts on the floor of the bourse, that was no more than we expected. The trouble now, so Le Carré suggests,

is that men like Tiger Single have leaped right out of the trading floor and into the pulpit, preaching the New World Economic Order Nowadays, runs the gloomy thought that underpins this wonderfully



Commerce is king in Russia now that the Cold War is over

Paul Massey

angry novel, when the world's business élite meet in covens like Davos at the annual World Economic Forum (here lightly disguised as "an informal German lakeside seminar for senile untouchables") Tiger Single will be there, driving the big courtesy Audi around in the snow.

What the folks who brought you the New World Economic Order failed to mention is that they are it. And anything that goes

private bankers. Complex financial instruments are used to club the enemy into submission. This is war. Tiger Single is what we have coming to us. Be frightened, runs Le Carré's underlying message in Single & Single.

It may be true. But, somehow, the news that balance-sheets have taken over from

goes. Behind them are the dealers in de- the balance of power is not enthralling. I rivatives, the hedge fund managers, the was more frightened, before. The finger on the nuclear button wins every time against the hand in the till. Mutually Assured Destruction beats Money Laundering any day. Bring back the Sovs, I say.

> Christopher Hope's new novel, 'Signs of the Heart', will be published by Macmillan

How Plato started the fatwa business

ALL WEEK, the tributes have rolled in for a writer who drew on creeds of every kind in her bold investigations of belief and unbelief. And tomorrow marks a full decade since another novelist, who tried to pull much the same trick, suffered a state-sponsored threat of execution. Iris Murdoch's obituarists have taken it as read that a career spent composing tall

stories on the margins of other people's cherished faith - or lack of it - merits respect. Dame Iris herself did no such thing. Indeed, her books gleefully depict figures who (give or take a few twists of history) could not only support the forwa against Salman Rushdie, but cheerfully carry it out.

anoid product

Murdoch argued so bard for the fearless art of fiction because, as a philosopher. she knew that most of the world's leading doctrines detested it. She grasped the force behind the ancient critique of imitative art as an irresponsible game with truths that lie too deep for tales. Forget the wrangles over "blasphemy", and that

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN

Dame Iris can account for Rushdie's plight

critique drives Rushdie's

more rational antagonists.

Murdoch makes a superb

advocate for a fiction free of priestly - or political interdict only because she can voice the other case so well. The best commentary on the core assumptions that fuel the Rushdie "debate" (if debates can happen with a gun at one side's head) can be found in her great exposition of "why Plato banished the artists", The Fire and the Sun. This account of Plato's notorious urge to censor and control all art is reprinted in

Existentialists and

Mystics, the rich hoard of Murdoch essays that Peter Conradi edited in 1997.

Artists, thought Plato, make mischief with religion; they "portray the gods as undignified and immoral". Art "apes the spiritual", and subtly "trivialises" faith. It teaches a "spiteful amused acceptance of evil", and hires us into preferring shadows over substance.

That metaphysical loathing for storytellers or actors has shifted very little over the past 2,500 years. Now, Platonism suffused

aspects of Islam almost as much as it did Christianity. Akbar Ahmed's new survey of Islam Today Q B Tauris, £9.95) points out that some Muslim scholars call Plato a secondary "prophet", who spread God's word. So a punitive fury at irreverent fictions grows not from alien superstition, but from the dark heart of "western" culture. Murdoch saw, and explained, all this with a bracing wit and clarity. Which is why we can mourn a truly illuminating thinker, as well as a spellbinding

A satırıcal wızard trom Oz

Lachlan Mackinnon wishes a fine poet a happy 70th birthday - and curses his publisher

/ to tell the man disappointed by lines appeared in The Cost of Seriousness (1978), in which Porter confronted the suicide of his first wife. Even the hostile am not the first reviewer to draw attention to the lines:

I owe a death to you - one day The time will came for me to pay When your slim shape from photographs

Stands at my door and gently

If I have any work to do Or will I come to bed with you. Repetition does not tire this memory; Porter's ability to reach for it through grief and

anger was an achievement

needing only the simplest

words to be made memorable. rarely been Porter's strong point. Since he arrived from Australia on 19 February 1951, three days after his 22nd birth- ently passionate utterance

POETRY, PETER Porter has uncomfortable part of the Engwritten, "is paid to distract us, lish cultural furniture. As a poetry reviewer with a rather his mother/ that he too can be narrow taste, a critic of opera a huge cry-baby". Porter's own and music and book-reviewer, mother died when he was nine, he has dissented from much and her ghost stalks much of his fashionable rubbish, but as a earlier work. However, these poet he has never quite been assimilated. His early work was predominantly satirical, vexed by the insouciance of the inheriting classes. I remember Craig Raine admitted it had mo- reading his derisive line about ments of "great poetry", and I the young returning from London to their ancestral homes "the bongos fading on the road to Haslemere", in a publicschool study near Godalming,

of a remarkable autodidacticism. Having no university education, he set out to master European art with the hunger of an earlier passionate tourist, TS Eliot. Unlike Eliot, he was as engaged by the minor as by Simplicity, however, has the major, which makes the

should be attributed not to the

the air thick with rock, and feeling Porter didn't understand his

adopted country; 25 years later, I fear he was righter than I. Porter's accuracy came out frame of reference of his poems unusually wide. One often wonders whether the most appar-



Collected Poems by Peter Porter Oxford University Press, 2 volumes, £25, 404 & 384pp

author but to a character: say. a minor 18th-century composer. Anyone who calls this élitist misses the point: Porter has trudged the galleries, heard the records and done the reading. If we don't, so much the worse for us.

That Porter and his characters are hard to tell apart is a consequence of his lack of dramatic imagination. To compensate for this, he uses allegory, and often we find abstractions taking on unusual vitality. In "The Golden Age of Criticism", Porter finds that "among the factories of Arcadia some are working/ at packing time into its crates of

knowledge". Porter's distaste sponsibility has exacted "The for the academic is voiced with Cost of Seriousness" and that equable humour, as in his vision of critics singing hymns to old humanity, the gods

that rise in rivers, shepherds calling to/ their flocks across a sculpted quadrangle. I only find one poem in these

nearly 800 pages in which Porter lets his evident lyrical bent loose, "Waiting for Rain in Devon". In Spirit in Exile: Peter Porter and his poetry (1991), Bruce Bennett tells us that this refers to the drought of 1976, which the poem does not say. This brief piece ends: Something has emerged from

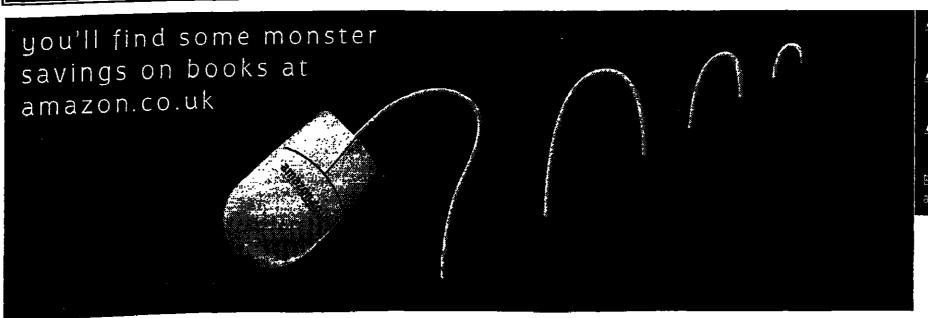
to show us where we are going. a journey to a desolate star. Come back, perennial rain. stand your soft sculptures in our gardens

for the barefoot frogs to leap. The omnipresence of death is a frequent topic; "soft sculptures" must make us think of Claes Oldenburg. The allusion is easy, though, and rapidly gathered into the sensory immediacy of "barefoot". If one were to attack Porter's work, it would be by saying that all too often his moral and cultural re-

Cost of Seriousness" and that here, for once, it does not. I do not make such an attack.

Rather, I want to praise the intelligence, variety, humanity and sheer interest by which most of these poems live. Their occasional limitations reflect the pressures of the age as much as the author's imperfections. Equally, the misprints which litter the second volume are, I suspect, his publisher's fault as much as his. This ample boxed set will be

the last significant publication of poetry by OUP, which has decided to abandon contemporary verse. Buy it now, as the Press is unlikely to reprint it. If you would rather read about Porter than read him, you can wait, as Oxford is keeping Bennett's critical biography in print. Oxford is, it seems, happy to make money out of this major writer's work so long as it doesn't actually publish it. Academic parasitism rarely walked so naked. Porter's attack on English culture is vindicated by the contempt "his publisher of nearly 40 years" (as OUP puts it) has shown for the art he has served so well – and, indeed, for him.



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SPOKEN

WORD

CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

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anthology of classic

erotic verse

Naxos.

2hrs 30mins. £8.99

FORGET THOSE silly cards.

Here are two spoken-word

perfect St Valentine's Day

gifts. Anthony Anderson's

is eclectic and unusual,

offering some familiar

delights (Wyatt's "They

more unfamiliar new

Arrangement is

typological rather than

century Chinese poem

juxtaposes music with

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treasures.

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Fr. stroi Coldina

Der Liebende and other

aptly romantic strains.

offerings that would be

INSPIRATIONS

WRITER BILL BRYSON

The music I almost never listen to music. I'm about the least musical person I have ever encountered. I like silence, even on a long car journey. But if I'm doing a big spring-clean I might put on a Jimi Hendrix album and listen to a couple of tracks very loud.

I particularly like the song Red House. The film vear there. The Wizard of Oz directed by Victor Fleming. I think The artwork it's underrated in all kinds of ways. Technologically it was wonderful, the story

inspired and it was perfectly plugged into a childlike mentality. It's the only children's movie that I've seen that's genuinely scary for children, Every time I see it it takes me right back to my own childhood and leaves me with a residual disappointment in a lot of movies because if they could realise imaginary

The place Home. Hanover, New Hampshire is quintessentially American. It's where my real bed is, where my wife and kids are. I've been away a huge amount this year. It's not where I'd

places so well half a

century ago, why can't

they do a better job now?



want to stay 365 days a year, it's not that stimulating, but I'd certainly like to spend a couple of hundred days a

The work of a good friend of mine, David Cook. He does all kinds of stuff (including my book jackets). I admire his way of seeing the world. He draws a tea towel hanging on a washing line, a rumpled bed or a cup and saucer in exquisite detail.

Christmas pantomimes. Sometimes Britain does something so completely unexpected and off-thewall and pantomime is the perfect example of that. I love the way they drop in jokes that go over the kids heads but which the adults enjoy. We always come back to Britain at Christmas and go to the panto.

Bill Bryson's Notes from a Big Country' is published by Doubleday, £16.99

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



IT'S HARD to see how this volume, based on a Radio 4 series, could be improved on as an introduction to science. A dozen scientific greats, from Archimedes to Einstein, are dazzlingly illuminated by successors working in the same fields. We learn that it was Galileo who first insisted on the power of maths ("without it, one is wandering about in a dark labyrinth") and the key thing about the "deeply unlikeable" Newton was his realisation that both the falling apple and the captive moon obey the same law. Sparks fly between contributors on

Darwin. This is science told with passion.

One

SET ON the talcum-soft sands of Angel

of life in a small Jamaican community

ripples with humour and crystal clear

seas. Like a sunny Garrison Keillor,

Beach, Guy Kennaway's satirical portrait

Kennaway recounts the personal dramas

of the town's leading players over half a century: Jackie, a beautiful prostitute who

seduces a well-meaning innocent for his

experience as a football linesman; and the

"bumpa botty". Like Keillor, Kennaway's

British passport; the tale of "Shepherd

mysterious powers of Sandra and her

Bush George" and his disastrous

prose is even better read aloud.

People

by Guy Kennaway

Canongate Books, £6.99, 241pp



WORTH READING as much for Elizabeth Jane Howard's elegant editorial asides on love and literature as for the anthologised passion in store. Howard has plumped for love at its most thrilling extracts from Wuthering Heights, First Love and Anna Karenina - and period pleces from Nancy Mittord, Elizabeth Taylor et al. Defending the joys of "vicarious pleasure", Howard attacks that "nasty highbrow theory" that romance is for losers. A sucker for the Tudors, she includes the full lyrics of "Greensleeves" and Henry VIII's letters to Anne Boleyn.

David

352pp

WHO BETTER for Phaidon's "Art &

Ideas" series than Jacques-Louis David?

He was official artist of the Revolution

painter of Napoleon. This great survivor

produced his finest work at the heart of

the tumult: his unfinished masterpiece

bayonet holes. While admitting that

and extreme pragmatism". This

same is true of his art.

"The Oath of the Tennis Court" bears six

David displayed a "ruthless and fanatical

painter combined "powerful commitment

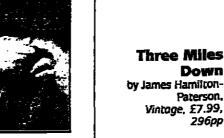
streak" during the Terror, Lee says the

profusely illustrated book reveals the

and, after a spell in prison, favourite

by Simon Lee,

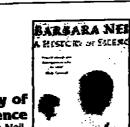
Phaidon, £12.95,



AFTER HIS paean to the oceans Seven-Tenths, the aquatically-obsessed Hamilton-Paterson was invited to accompany an attempt to recover \$83 million in gold from two ships on the Atlantic sea-bed. Though he applies his novelistic skills to the characters aboard the Russian ship hired for the expedition, H-P admits, "Science is so much more interesting than literature, it's really quite shocking." The highlight of the book is when he wangles a trip to the depths: "Wonderful beyond anything I've ever seen before, spectacularly ungodded." No gold was found, but H-P



brought back a book of great riches.



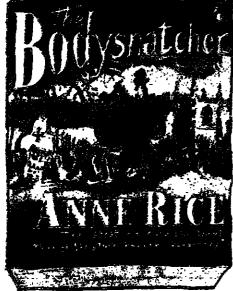
A History of Silence by Barbara Neil, Pan, £5.99, 291pp

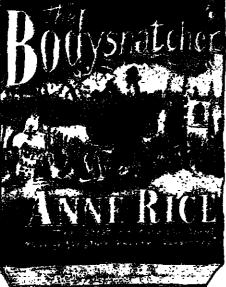
ROBBIE HEATH, a successful London physiotherapist, has spent most of her twenties taking care of her ageing mother and vulnerable older sister. In an attempt to break away from this intense family trinity, she accepts a position in the States, and flies off to Louisiana to take care of a rich old gentleman (and his antebellum mansion). It's not long before mother and sister turn up in New Orleans to join in the fun. Child abuse and its toxic legacy lie at the heart of this disturbing and atmospheric novel, but Neil nimbly avoids the subject's more usual cliches. Author of The Possession of Delia Sutherland.



Classic Love Stories read by Martin Jarvis & Rosalind Avres CSA. 3hrs. £8.99

AGAIN, IT is the skill of the selector as well as excellent readers which makes this an outstanding anthology. The two Katherine Mansfield short stories are predictably excellent, but who would have thought that Louisa Little Women Alcott could be found writing of bright young crime in those days, of course) to cut down their inhibitions? The contrasts work beautifully too: moving us from Hardy's predictably doleful "Melancholy of Hussars" through Baring-Gould's hilarious "Jenifer" to Dickens's whimsically satisfying "Bagman's Story".





THE PAGES HAVE BEEN MINOYATIVELY INFUSED WITH THE STEPTH OF DAMP earth and decomposing clické.



AT ANY time, there are 500 photographers struggling to join the 50 mers who make up the Magnum photo agency. While lapping up Miller's superb account, you wonder why they bother. Newcomers have to endure a two-year novitiate before joining a ramshackle outfit described by an exmember as "amateurish, erratic and inefficient". Bitter words are not uncommon between colleagues, not least Cartier-Bresson's view of grunge specialist Martin Parr: "You are from a completely different planet."



NOT A good collection to read in February, Robert Stone's stories are enough to make you want to go out and shoot yourself. His characters - drunks and junkies of both sexes - wander about in snowdrifts and deserted shopping malls, their heads filled with paranoid fantasies about Vietnam and the Catholic Church. Classics include "Miserere", the tale of two women who steal aborted foetuses: while the title story recounts how a drunken poet, visiting his daughter (also an alcoholic), finds himself at the wrong end of a loaded gun.

Hitler's Secret **Bankers** by Adam LeBor, Pocket, £7.99. 400pp

THIS INDICTMENT of the Swiss bankers who benefited from the "holocaust bonanza" makes painful reading. We monetary quality or dental grade, it would always find a home in Swiss banks". Deposits made by Jews killed in the death camps were not returned to relatives for over 50 years because they had no death certificates. Other Swiss organisations who took Nazi booty ranged from Bally Shoes to the Red Cross. Swiss bankers are making restitution, but LeBor notes they charge 100 francs for tracking down an account.

BESTSELLERS

John Grisham's domination of the thriller market cannot be in any doubt. number one (as has the paperback of The Street Lawyer, publish

our new fiction list). Bill Bryson is the travel list this week, aided, as ever, by a TV tie-in, while Ted Hughes continues to outsell pop psychology and cookery el Smith's Station X is the

new entry, The Year 1000, examines life in Y1K: wolves and ravening hordes were the millennium bugs of their day. Compiled by Booksoatch on sales over seven days ending 7 February 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES	
The Testament	John Grisham (Century)	£16.99		
Come Together	Josle Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	5,670	
Southern Cross	Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown)	£16.99	1,710	
Liar Birds	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,685	
The Death of Anny Parris	T R Bowen (Penguin)	£5.99	1,676	
City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	£5.99	1,528	
Powerplays: ruthless.com	Tom Clancy (Penguin)	£5.99	1,468	
It Means Mischief	Kate Thompson (Bantam)	£5.99	1,404	
Messiah	Borls Starling (HarperCollins)	£5.99	1,374	
Tiffany's Secret Diary	Kate Lock (BBC)	£4.99	864	

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes (Faber)	£14.99	3,730
Men Are From Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8.99	3,401
Station X: codebreakers	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	2,704
Little Book of Feng Shul	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	2,147
The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	£1.99	1,809
Seafood Odyssey	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	1,784
Notes From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	1,684
Delia's How to Cook	Della Smith (BBC)	£16.99	1,294
The Little Book of Sleep	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	£1.99	1,212
The Year 1000	Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Brown)		1,152

TRAVEL

	fitte	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE,	WEEKLY SALES
1	Notes From a Small Island	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	6,639
2	Neither Here Nor There	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	1,726
3	Notes From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	1,684
4	A Walk in the Woods	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	1,212
5	The Lost Continent	Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	744
6	The Lost Continent	Bill Bryson (Abacus)	£6.99	496
7	Lost Continent & Neither Here	Nor There Bill Bryson (Secker)	£9.99	218
8	From the Holy Mountain	William Dalrymple (HarperCollins)	£8.99	213
9	Round Ireland with a Fridge	iony Hawks (Ebury)	£9.99	142
0	The Field of the Star	Nicholas Luard (Penguin)	£5.99	109

Perky pilgrim's progress

Will Theo's trip across the world's beliefs equal Sophie's success? Not if he merely skates over the surface of religion, argues Karen Armstrong

IN THEO'S Odyssey, Cathérine Clement attempts to do for spirituality what Sophie's World did for philosophy. Theo is a teenager whose liberal Parisian parents have shielded him from religion; he has little knowledge of the life of faith. When he falls prey to a mysterious virus. Theo's Aunt Martha takes him on a trip around the world to learn about the different religions and, perhaps, find a cure.

Theo attends a Zen tea ceremony in Japan, an animal sacrifice in Africa, a synagogue service in Prague, and watches the Whirling Dervishes perform their stately meditative dance in Turkey. He has lessons in breathing from a yogi in India, falls into a trance during a Sufi healing rite in Egypt, finds a cure in Tibet, and is reunited with his girlfriend and parents in Delphi. Throughout, Theo and his aunt argue, and Theo voices the questions of secularists confronted with some of the more bizarre ritu-

als and beliefs of religion. Theo seems to have arrived at an appreciation of the need for spirituality and, at the conclusion, has developed a positive vision of the essential unity of the various traditions. It is not easy to see how he has achieved this, however, since he seems constantly to defend himself from any real exposure to the sacred with a barrage of jaunty, cerebral reflections. It is also hard to understand why Aunt Martha insisted on this spiritual journey, since she does engage, through Theo,



Theo's Odyssey by Cathérine Clément Flamingo, £9.99, 576pp

seems to have an entrenched antipathy towards religion (except for Buddhism, which has dispensed with God). One of the difficulties is that

information about religion does not really explain its appeal. Spirituality is a slow, silent and disciplined appropriation of a tradition which gradually transforms the seeker's inner being. in rather the same inexplicable way as we are affected by an aesthetic cultivation of great painting or music. A chatty account of the abstruse debates about the divinity of Christ, for example, does not convey the moral, mystical and imaginative reasons for the adoption of this difficult doctrine: a stumbling attempt to express the universal conviction that the sacred

is inseparable from humanity. Clément does provide a useful introduction to some aspects of religious history, and



Whirling Dervishes perform their dance Mary Evans

with fundamental spiritual concepts. But this is a gradual process, far removed from Theo's helter-skelter trip and the spectacular rituals of faith. There is no appreciation of the steady dedication to religious law as a way of bringing the divine into mundane existence.

Indeed, the novel is reminiscent of Sophie's Choice in that, like Clément, Jostein Gaarder also confines himself to the intrinsic to the detriment of the inner resonance of ideas. In Gaarder's novels, too, the sprightly demeanour of his characters keeps them at arm's length. Despite their frequent tears and noisy emotional outbursts, we never really get close to Theo and Martha either. An exploration of the boy's interior life, as he finds healing. could have demonstrated the way in which these strange doctrines impact upon the

deeper reaches of the psyche.

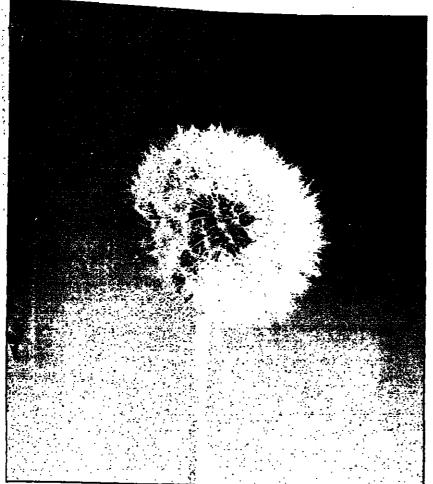
Clément remains determinedly on the surface. While she is careful to correct misapprehensions, some of her information is not wholly accurate. There are significant mistakes in the account of the history of Jerusalem, for example, and misplaced emphases in the stories of Judaism and Christianity. Much is made of the intolerance of monotheistic faith, but not enough of its commitment to compassion and justice.

Nevertheless, Odyssey will perform a valuable service if it introduces its readers to the essential harmony and deep similarity of the world's faiths. At a time of heightened religious militancy it is important that people learn to take others' faith seriously. and that secularists, like Theo, begin to realise that religion may be more congenial and less. alien than they imagine.



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Chemical sprays radically cut down on the labour of gardening - but they can also be treacherous friends. By Anna Pavord







One o'clock, two o'clock... spraying weedkiller in your garden may save valuable time, but all such products must be used sparingly and with the utmost caution

herever more than one person gardens on the same piece of land, you will find the rumbings of a great weedkiller row. Everyone has had one, and years ifter the event you can still inadrertently stir up an ancient quarrel y an ill-judged comment. Wanderng around a friend's garden reently, I made some inconsequential mment about a pair of Irish yews ols ed either side of an entrance. could not help noticing that one was

ft higher than the other. "That's because he spilt the veedkiller," said my friend resentully. Her husband's spill had been atal to one of the pair and they had and to replant. The incident, already we years old, was still a red-hot ssue as far as she was concerned.

ime had not healed this rift. All round the gardening world you

ations. Sodium chlorate has a lot to answer for ("but I swear I only put it on the drive - honestly"). All gardeners can recite lists longer than that of Beachcomber's cabdrivers, of particularly choice and beloved plants cut down in their prime by a careless swing of the watering-can ("but I didn't see it spill; I really didn't"). Only one thing is common to all tales of weedkiller woe. It is always the other person's fault.

Gardeners of an organic bent may now be feeling very smug and planning letters pointing out that there is no need to use weedkillers at all. In ideal circumstances, this is so. If you have as much time as you want to garden and if you start with a plot reasonably free of real thugs, such as bindweed, couchgrass and ground elder, you can, by mulching and hoeing, keep the place as weed free as the Sahara Desert.

For five years, I made a conscientious effort to stick to these princiear the echoes of similar recrimin- ples, but in an acre and a half of

richly fertile garden, which had been abandoned for the previous 20 years, this was soon a losing battle. Every patch had to be won from a wilderness of briar, elder, nettle and dock and an army of lesser weeds.

When I went off to conquer new territory, the weeds quickly recolonised my oases of planting. Then I found glyphosate and, in the best Mills & Boon tradition, thought I would live happily ever after. Set against what is available, my herbicidal armoury is minute. I do not use weedkiller on lawns, in the vegetable garden, among fruit trees, or round flowers and shrubs. It is used on the drive, some paths and paving, but its primary use (in the early days) was for clearing ground before planting.
In the end, the only feasible way

to retrieve our bank from the wilderness was to concentrate on a strip at a time. Each year, between March and September, I treated one strip with glyphosate (Monsauto's Round-

up), spraying more than once where ground elder and bindweed were especially persistent. Only when the ground was absolutely clean did I plant it and move on to the next, adjoining strip to repeat the process.

The whole thing took years. I didn't dig the ground at all, but in the autumn planted among the corpses of docks and nettles. The aim was to plant each patch so thickly by spring, that weeds would have a hard time muscling back in. Once cleared and planted, each natch was mulched heavily in autumn or winter with mushroom compost, leaf mould, grass cuttings, whatever I could lay my hands on.

The secret of low-maintenance gardening (and I discovered it the hard way) is to start with absolutely clean ground. It is difficult to achieve this by digging. Roots of ground elder, couch and bindweed will all sprout from the tiniest morsel left in the ground. As these roots are brittle there are usually plenty of

morsels hanging about like time- around in the earth to stop fresh bombs, waiting to explode in spring. Glyphosate is one of a group of

weedkillers that are, in manufacturers' jargon, translocated and non-residual, Non-residual means that the weedkiller acts only on the weed and should not lurk about in the soil. Translocated herbicides are absorbed through the leaves of a plant and then pushed on down to the roots, killing the whole thing stone dead. Paraquat destroys only the green parts of a plant, so is more effective against annual than perennial weeds. Both are non-selective, which means that they will not be able to tell a dahlia from a dock.

Soil-acting weedkillers are more sinister, only to be used (and then only sparingly) in places where you do not want anything to grow ever again. These weedkillers are first absorbed by the roots of a plant, then sent up to kill the parts that are above ground.

The active ingredients hang cold, moist soil, their effect will per-

weed seeds germinating. Dichlobenil (Casoron G4) and simazine (contained in Miracle's cocktail Pathclear) are both non-selective, persistent weedkillers to use on drives, paths or paving which you want to keep weed-free for ever. But would these areas not be prettier if

At low dosages, the manufacturers suggest, both these preparations can be used to control weeds among established trees and shrubs. I have not tried this, as under the system I have now adopted, I can easily keep up with the weeds. Some shrubs choisya, forsythia, cotoneaster, prunus and viburnum among them - do not take kindly even to low doses

flowers were allowed to self-seed in

the cracks?

Both dichlobenil and simazine are best used in late winter, when, in

of simazine. Senecio, gleditsia, larch,

elder and symphoricarpos are al-

lergic to dichlobenil.

sist for months. Contact weedkillers such as glyphosate and paraquat are most effective in summer when weeds are growing full tilt, with max-

imum leaf area to receive the spray, Glyphosate is especially lethal when weeds are flowering, and in late summer when roots are fat with stores for winter. Treat all weedkillers with caution.

Chemical giants such as Monsanto generally get such a bad press, that they are understandably bullish when it comes to defending their products.

A little while ago I wrote to Monsanto, asking for the most up-to-date research on the non-residual nature of glyphosate in the soil. I had used this weedkiller for several seasons to treat persistent weeds among some sheets of old daffodils. All the bulbs subsequently disappeared. I must have been using it while the daffodils' foliage was above ground, they replied. In August? They must

Charity begins at home... and blooms in the garden

Plant sales may be great for fund-raising, but having the right produce at the right stage on the day demands military planning. By Ursula Buchan

S SURE as echeveria is echevria, there comes a moment, if ou are a keen gardener, when ou get involved in growing y. Plant sales, large and small, re proven money-spinners (in omparison to white elephant talls, at least) and, although ney require commitment in , arms of time, greenhouse and ame space, equipment and ood temper, they are great fun. lell, in retrospect at least. Last January, I volunteered

organise a plant stall for the hurch fete. What could be mpler, I thought? After all, I wned a couple of small greenx s, one of which I could eat, and some cold frames. buid bank on local good will nd promises of pots and lants, and I had a burning esire to be useful, knowing at my hidden talents for makcrafts and toys, not to menon chocolate cakes, were best

I soon learnt that there are rinkles to this business. It has be planned as carefully as a ulitary campaign. To begin ith, you must take account of ie date of the sale and draw up timetable. There is always the anger of sowing seeds too trly, in a fit of understandable nthusiasm, only to discover at the plants are pot-bound nd half-starved by the time ey are required. You have to grow plants that

li this is not necessarily those at You like, or are good at owing. Tender annuals, for cample, will not shift in late me for many people will have right them for planting seval weeks earlier.

And you have to take account changing attitudes towards uden-making. Rooted shrub ittings, though excellent due, will probably not sell



well, because potential customers know that they need to be grown on before planting out. Potted-up hardy perennials will shift only if they are in flower or if they are a little unusual; at our sale, someone's tree peony seedlings went like a bomb. Herbs are always popular, especially those you have to sow each year, such as parsley, chervil and basil.

We discovered that for a late June sale, the winners were flowering house-plants, such as streptocarpuses, saintpaulias, pelargoniums, cacti and other succulents. Thankfully, a kind neighbour, who came to help sell, brought a large basket of rooted streptocarpus cuttings in pots; these were accompanied by larger flowering plants, which were put on the table so that customers knew what colour flower they were getting. (We had to be so careful not to sell these, for fear of being left high and dry with their flowerless progeny). Popular, too, were the F1 hybrid pelargoniums,

in January in heat, which were flowering fit to bust. If you have promised to help

at such an event this spring or summer, it is time to be thinking about how to go about it. You need to sort out which seed to sow, and what should be rooted from cuttings in spring; take note on seed packets of the time between sowing and flower-ing, and calculate back from the date of the sale. You need your dispositions sorted out. Can you feed, water and shade plants effectively? How much modules and pots will you need? The majority will be 9cm or 10cm, unless you plan to pot least 15cm. Square pots are beteasier to "line out" and, later, easier to transport. Pots breed in sheds, like coathangers in wardrobes, so most gardeners are delighted to offload some of

them on you.

which I sowed in the last week the plants? A single tray of begonia seedlings, when potted on, may translate into several feet of staging. If you don't want to heat a greenhouse much, see if you can buy plantiets in bulk in spring from a wholesale nursery. Take ac-count of the fact that all plants, for summer sales at least, need to be well "hardened off" before

the day of the sale. If you are growing for a "rare plant" sale, such as are organised by local groups of the NCCPG, things will be rather different. In some ways, these potting compost and how many sales are easier, for you can expect the clientele to be quite happy to buy a pot with a few indeterminate stems or leaves up hardy perennials, in which in it, bearing no flowers. The case they may need to be at only adamant requirements are that the pot should be dister than round, as they are tinctly and accurately labelled and that those selling should be able to answer the questions: "What does it do?" and, "When does it do it?"

On second thoughts, I think I'll restrict my efforts to raising Where are you going to put money for the church roof.

CUTTINGS NEWS FROM THE

the Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick in Gloucestershire by Angela Newing, compiler of crosswords (and director of medical physics in Gloucestershire's hospitals). Restoration of the garden began 15 years ago, when Lord Dickinson, the owner, discovered a Thomas Robins painting showing how it looked in its heyday in the middle of the 18th century. The maze commemorates the 250th anniversary of the painting and is designed around the figures nought, two and five. The whole thing measures 50 yards by 24

yards, rather larger than the famous maze at Hampton Court Palace. The design is marked out with more than 300 green yew trees and 200 golden ones. Beginners, advises Professor Newing, should start with the five, the easiest of the three interlocking puzzles to crack. At the centre is a solar-powered fountain. The garden is open until November (it's famous for snowdrops, too), Wed-Sun 11am-5pm.

THE GARDEN History Society's Winter Lecture series this year takes

GARDENERS' WORLD

as its theme Great Gardens of Europe. The season was launched earlier this month by Belinda Jupp, who talked about the rediscovered gardens of Belvedere in Co Westmeath. Other speakers include George Clark, who on 17 Feb explains the delights and difficulties involved in the restoration of the gardens at Stowe, and Dimitri Shvidovsky, vicepresident of the Russian Academy of

the obsession of Catherine the Great (pictured) with all things English, All lectures take place at the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London W1 and start at 6pm. Tickets cost £7 each or £35 for the six lectures in the series. For more information, or to book tickets in advance, contact Linda Wigley at the GHS, 77 Cowcross St, London EC1M 6BP (0171-608 2409).

BRIAN ALLT, of Sudbury in Suffolk, writes with a comment on the Gardening Workshop in The Independent on 28 November. "The worst feature shown in your picture is the mass of orange (not red. I think) brick in the back wall. Oenone Dale should try mixing some sieved soil into a béchamel consistency and rubbing it (with gloves) into a sample of brick, allowing it to weather for a few days. If, as I think will be found, it mellows, then she can apply it to the whole area. It may even encourage lichen growth, especially if she adds a bit of fine oatmeal and natural manure. Rain will soon wash off the surplus."

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Going to war with the boar

COUNTRY **MATTERS**



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was on Voluntary Service Overseas in India, he once wrote home to say that somebody had shot a wild boar 10ft long. "Nonsense!" was my father's crisp retort. "Bores that size are found only in my club." He may soon have to withdraw his

claim for that exclusive nature reserve, the Garrick, because wild boar of considerable dimensions are at large in Kent, Sussex and parts of Dorset, and the fact that they have become established in the English countryside is no joke for local farmers. One male animal killed in Dorset was so heavy that four men could not heave it out of the ditch into which it had fallen, and needed a tractor to shift it.

The founder members of the feral herd seem to have escaped from enclosures after the hurricane of 1990, when falling trees smashed down fences. Early reports of wild boar on the loose were dismissed as hallucinations; now they are two a penny, and at least 40 animals have been shot, and several killed on roads. The strange fact is that nobody has ever owned up to losing any; but, as one farmer put it: "They didn't come from Mars."

The population is now estimated at between 100 and 300. Last October, in an official report from its Central Science Laboratory, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) belatedly acknowledged that a problem exists; and in January the privately-funded Game Conservancy Trust recommended that the pigs should be eradicated before they spread any farther. One of the earliest landowners to suffer from their



Wild boar of considerable dimensions are at large in Kept, Sussex and parts of Dorset. The population is estimated at between 100 and 300 animals

depredations was Jenny Farrant, effacing but big males stand nearly muscle that it takes a big-bore rifle drives and from high seats set on the for instance, became established who farms near Rye, in East Sussex. 3ft high at the shoulder, may easily to kill them cleanly. edges of fields and forests. The in the wild, it would continually who farms near Rye, in East Sussex. The first intimation of trouble came when she found all her sheep fencing "torn asunder" and began to lose lambs.

"Wild boar are omnivorous," she says. "People claim they don't eat lambs - but they do. All you find is a pool of blood and four little feet."

The pigs also did such damage digging up hops that she had to take out one whole garden. Since then, six wild boar have been shot on her land, and several have been hit on the roads near her farm. Recently however, the animals seem to have moved away, probably in search of food. The autumn of 1997 produced a tremendous crop of acorns but last year there were hardly any, and the pigs have started digging up fields of young wheat.

In Britain, wild boar are officially classed as dangerous wild animals; they are mainly nocturnal and self-

weigh 300lb, and if attacked or cornered can disembowel opponents with one sweep of their tusks.

In calling for their eradication, the

Game Conservancy Trust points out that although the animals were once native to the British Isles, their natural predators - wolves and bears - have long since disappeared. and only man can now control their numbers. Since poison is too dangerous and trapping is ineffective, the only weapon for the job is a powerful rifle.

Already the presence of a new kind of big game has brought out cowboys by the dozen. If a farmer is known to have problems, would-be pig-hunters turn up offering their services, armed with all sorts of unsuitable weapons, including crossbows and bows and arrows. In fact boar are so heavily armoured with hair, hide and layers of lard and

At present, a small army of stalk-

ers, both amateur and professional. is barely keeping the deer population under control. If wild boar were to become widely established, the police would have to issue many more licences for heavy-calibre weapons - a direct reversal of their present policy of trying to restrict the use of firearms.

On the Continent, boar-shooting is highly prized - and often highly dangerous. In Poland, I once got an unsolicited demonstration of what the military call "crack and thump". The supersonic crack of a bullet passing close by my head was in-stantaneously followed by the thump of its impact in a bank behind me.

In many European countries, the revenue raised from hunters helps pay for the damage pigs cause to farm crops. In Germany alone, some 300,000 boar are shot every year, in

sport and the meat are in strong demand, and the payment per animal amounts to nearly £170. Here, we have no system or

tradition of that kind. Our forests are far smaller, and our environment has evolved to its present state without the influence of wild pigs. If they came back in large numbers, the chances are that they would cause havoc, not only on farms but also in woods, and especially on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Plants such as bluebells would be rooted up, the nests of ground-nesting birds such as pheasants and partridges gobbled.

Another worry is that wild boar would spread infectious such as swine fever and foot and mouth disease. Already there have been many instances of feral animals breaking into farm enclosures and mating with domestic sows. If swine fever,

re-infect domestic stock. A more immediate danger is to

people walking their dogs in the woods. Sows with litters can be extremely aggressive in defence of their young - and, as one farmer's wife put it: "If a dog got involved in a fight, an English person would go in to try to rescue it. The outcome would be exactly like someone going out on to ice: the person dies and the dog is saved."

The general view, then, is that wild boar are a menace, rather than a desirable addition to our fauna, being too large and destructive for our tight-knit island. Yet even if an official decision is taken to exterminate them, the practical difficulties will be enormous. It is more than 50 years since captive animals made similar escapes in Sweden, and their descendants are still very much on the rampage.

NATURE NOTES

PIERCING WHISTLES ring out over the valley every day now as buzzards start up their annual mating routine. In twos and threes - sometimes even five or six at a time - the big hawks soar above the escarpment as they pair off and stake out their territories. On set wings, keeping their upward-curved primary



feathers separated like fingers, they cruise in wide spirals for minutes on end without any apparent effort. Sometimes the birds are mobbed by crows, which deliberately harass them, making recklessly close nasses and occasionally forcing them into sudden changes of course. Every now and then a crow pushes its luck too far and gets grabbed in mid-air.

Soon the buzzards will start building nests, or repairing old ones, high in trees on sites well away from human habitation. In the centre of an untidy mass of sticks they line a cup with grass or bracken, and both sexes take turns to incubate the clutch of two, three or four eggs. Fortunately for the

buzzards, rabbits are also starting to breed. Bucks are chasing does around in the open, in their own form of ritual, and by the time the predators' chicks hatch out in April, there will be plenty of easily-caught flopsy bunnies on which their parents will be able to

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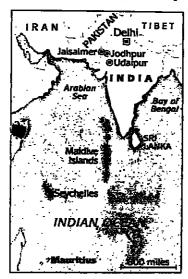
A long-awaited honeymoon in Mauritius was a chance to mix business and pleasure for Keith Richards and his new(ish) bride

the lives of those of us who have chosen to marry, the one holiday you're guaranteed to remember is the honeymoon, if only because its grand title distinguishes it from every other holiday. For my wife, Heather, and me there's something more to sustain the memory of our honeymoon in Mauritius, though

We put on hold thoughts of cascading waterfalls in the Bambou Mountains, Dodos, an unpronounceable airport and a range of mountains memorably called the Three Breasts. Instead, there was work to be done. Not for us the honeymoon perks offered by our luxury hotel - a trip on the "love boat" at sunset and an upgraded fish supper. astead came a call, asking: "I know s your honeymoon, but if I bring a couple of camera crews and some journalists to your hotel, could we hold a press conference?"

This place was a working paradise for us. The local food, recipes and culinary talents of Mauritius were under scrutiny by Heather, a commissioning editor of cookery books. And for me, a consumer law barrister at that time working for Which? magazine, I had a strong urge to investigate consumer rights on the island.

By the time we married, we had been living together for 15 years it was worth the wait to be able to call our annual holiday a "honey-



moon". But indulging our other passions on our "working" honeymoon got us closer to the country and so made a special trip to that unfor-

gettable island even more unique. The request for a press conference had come from Jayen Chellum. Director of ACIM, the Mauritian Consumers' Association. Pd faxed ahead to tell him we were coming and he jumped at the chance of using me to advance the cause of his organisation. L in turn, jumped at the chance of helping

We arranged to meet in Port Louis, across the other side of the island from where Heather and I were staying, and in our hire car we shared the potholed roads with other less roadworthy vehicles – demonstrating that ACIM certainly had a big job ahead of it in terms of vehicle safety.

Thankfully, we were distracted from the state of the roads by the flame-red wild poinsettias lining the sides of the road, at least 100 times bigger than the familiar Christmas pot plants we get in Britain, and by wild dogs too sleepy to bark but not too sleepy to wander suicidally in front of the car.
The island's capital is hemmed in

by an impressive natural amphitheatre, formed by soaring mountains. We arrived safely in Port Louis, an exciting mix of Indian, African, Chinese and European influences that is good for the culinary culture but not so good for the ACIM. Consumer campaigning is a political business in any country and the surprisingly harmonious mix of races and religions here makes the job of whipping up a popular con-

sumer vote practically impossible.

We'd arranged to meet Jayen by the old colonial line barracks and swiftly moved on to an excellent Chinese restaurant. Tucked away in a back street that we would never have known was there, let alone venture into on our own, the food was delicious. In Mauritius, unlike Britain, the origins of Chinese food are very close and it showed in the taste of the meal and in the variety of dishes on offer. There was not a sweet and sour prawn ball in sight and Heather was in her element, scribbling notes as if fried rice was going out of fashion.



When you are on a 'working' honeymoon, there just isn't time to sail hand in hand into the sunset on the hotel's 'love boat

ACIM HQ was a shock, housed as it was in a small, three-room office by the barracks with one computer and an obvious lack of funds. Over lunch we had learned that this Consumers' Association had a busy and successful past but a seemingly impossible burden for the future. Consumerism has come so far in the West that it was sad to see the paucity of facilities available here to help advance their cause.

The journalists Jayen had arranged to meet us in Port Louis had not turned up after all but Heather's food research continued as we spent a number of days wandering the streets in nearby towns and scouring the food markets for imusual produce. The mainstream

cooking in Mauritius is influenced largely by Indian flavours and street sellers ply their freshly cooked food to hungry locals. Among the delicacies Heather sniffed out for our delectation were gateaux piments (crisp, spicy balls of deep-fried split peas and green chillies).

Back at our hotel, Heather had already interviewed the chef who, she discovered, often came to Britain to check on gastronomic trends. He was as keen to learn from her as she was from him and, night after night, he produced surprise dishes of local specialities for us much to the envy of other guests.

Then came another call. "I might be able to get a newspaper journalist to come to the hotel to ask some questions," said Jayen. By now we were fast approaching the end of our honeymoon and we invited Jayen over to our hotel for dinner. That last night was spent deep in conversation plotting a consumer revolution in this fascinating country.

I discovered that for the local people, there is a lot of work to be done to achieve what we take for granted as basic protection in the West and, with such a lot for the consumer movement to do, I realised I had spent time in a consumer lawyer's nirvana. Was Heather upset? No. The shark curry and sea urchins the chef had specially prepared for her soon arrived. And, as for the press conference, it never

THE GOVERNMENT of Mauritius does not allow charter flights, so the only direct services from Britain are on Air Mauritius (0171-434 4375) from Heathrow and Manchester, and British Airways (0345 222111) from Gatwick. BA flies three times each week (two of these flights stop to refuel at Nairobi). Air

Mauritius flies non-stop twice a

week from Heathrow, once a

week from Manchester.

Numerous companies offer holidays based on these flights. including Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8632), British Airways Holidays (0870 2424245) and Hayes & Jarvis (0181-748 5050).

You can also sail from Felixstowe to Mauritius in four weeks on a cargo vessel, for around £2,500 one-way. Strand Voyages (0171-836 6363). Further information: the

Mauritius Government Tourist Office, 32 Elvaston Place, London SW7 (0171-581 0294).

When mash is the food of love, eat up

When Husain Husaini met his wife-to-be in India, she was suffering from a craving for mashed potato - and he from an incurable passion

IT WAS amoebic dysentery that led to my first sight of Jessica, the woman who would become 👱 my wife. Early in 1991, I was lying on a seven rupee-a-night dorm bed in the Deepak rest house, a typically squalid backpacker's hostel in the Indian desert city of Jaisalmer. Flyinfested and freezing cold, the Deepak's saving feature was its location. Built in the walls of Jaisalmer's fort, it didn't take much imagination to be transported to the days when the town was fought over by

Rajasthani princes. Jessica was staying in the room next door, suffering terright from an evil bug picked up on her travels. In India's backpacking hostels, it's almost expected to chat to everyone you meet so when I found Jess on the roof a few days later, I had no need of an excuse to go over and talk to her. She was sitting amongst the battlements in a turret of the fort. Behind her, the Thar desert rolled away to Pakistan beneath the bluest of skies. Our conversation was pretty standard for backpackers: the places we'd been; the hassles we'd met and, of course, the bowel problems we'd suffered.

Jess was beginning to infested by amoebas. She also moaned about the food, which she blamed for her predica-Mag. She spoke with longing of a favourite meals at home, top of her bland wish-list being mashed potato. By this point I was completely won over by Jess and her acidic wit and her potato-craving gave me the perfect opportunity to spend more time with her. The day before I'd been to a cafe where I'd seen mash, not exactly an Indian speciality, on the menu. I offered to take her there.

17.75



We left the Deepak and to be what she had in mind and

entered the labyrinth of cobbled lanes that made up the fort, eventually crossing out through the portcullis gate and into the main street of the town. Jess recover and was very funny about the indignities of being and it was quite a trek through the crowds to the cafe. She pointed out several perfectly acceptable alternatives on the way, but I insisted that if she wanted mashed potato, we had

to keep going. When we got there, the cafe was dingier than I remembered, but Jess didn't notice as she dashed behind a curtain into what passed for a toilet. She was a bit shaky when she finally came out, but cheered up when the menu arrived and hungrily ordered her mash. The plate of rice-water goo that appeared

shortly afterwards didn't seem

she complained bitterly. Days slipped by in Jair but I was far too smitten to allow the mashed potato incident to put me off. She forgave me, but our relationship didn't seem to be progressing, at least not the way I wanted. I did, however, manage to persuade her to let me go with her to Udaipur, her next destination.

If romance is on your mind, this is the place to go. It's a hazy, hilly town built on the banks of the island-strewn Lake Pichola. 11 331 0517) has daily flights On one of the islands is a palace from Delhi to Udaipur, or there built by a Maharana, now con- is a train six days a week verted into a legendary hotel. which takes around 20 hours Far too expensive for us, but we scraped together enough money for dinner. The posse of by bus or train from Jodhpur, backpackers who came with us,

however, were a bit of a hindrance for what I had in mind. Somehow I managed to slip

Jess away for a stroll along the lake front. The sun was setting, the stars coming out: an ideal moment to express my growing affection and perhaps even get a snog. But then some of the others discovered us and the moment was gone. This was getting ridiculous. I'd known Jess for almost two weeks in heart-breakingly beautiful settings and yet hadn't managed to communicate my desires.

The next day was make or break. Jess was planning to head further south and I couldn't keep traipsing about after her unless I knew what her feelings were. That afternoon, unable to contain myself, I clumsily burst out: "So, are we going to get something together?" For a second I thought Γd blown it as Jess spluttered and laughed, but she seemed to be happy about the prospect and in that moment my life changed for ever. By a quirk of fate, that night was the eve of the Hindu festival of Holi, celebrating the end of winter. And, as we sat canoodling on the roof of our hostel, thousands of fireworks exploded over the lake as if they were just for us.

Getting there: the cheapest flights to India are generally on airlines from the former Soviet Union. You can expect to pay around £300 return to Delhi on an airline such as Armenian Airlines via Yerevan, booked through Classic Travels (0171-499 2222). Indian Airlines (00 91 to complete the same journey. Jaisalmer can be best reached

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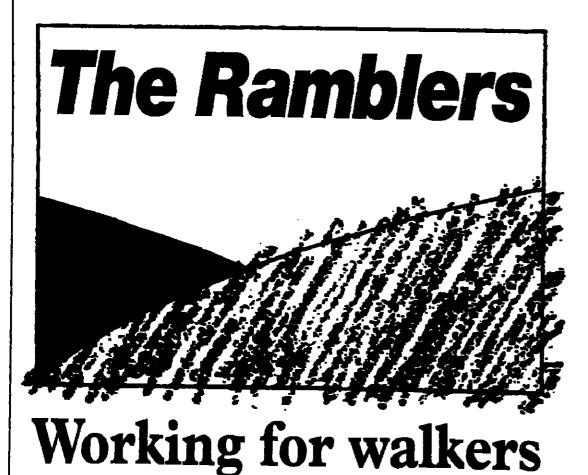




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The Ramblers' Association is preparing to take legal action against Mr Van Hoogstraten, a Sussex landowner who is illegally blocking a public footpath.

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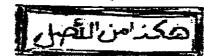
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So, do architects really live in minimalist houses that are a homage to chrome? Well, some of them do, as Peter Conchie discovered on a new London tour

hoes, it has been said. reveal a lot about a person. Imagine your reaction if 25 strangers rang your doorbell one Saturday morning and spent the next 45 minutes tramping d poking and clumping around vour house. Would it be a case of shoes on or shoes off?

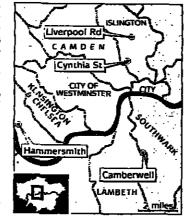
The first of Architectural Diaogue's spring tours asked this very question to some of London's most prominent architects last weekend and, in the coming weeks, artists and oft-owners will be among those facing the same dilemma as Londoners traipse around in a series of coach-driven excursions designed to stimulate discussion and debate about architecture and design.

Camberwell was the first stop of the day and our group of 25 inspected, in the benevolent spirit of Hello! magazine, the beautiful bome of Selina and John Eger. Shoes evidently weren't an issue for this charming couple. They bought the three-storey former laundry and print factory in 1995 and have since adapted it to their needs; the ground floor is a typical architects' space that is both stylish and functional.

The middle and top floors are both domestic spaces, the highest level a self-contained studio with twin roof terraces. All very swish and Nineties - due in part to expensive detailing such as the Smeg cooker and Vola taps - but the success is in its airiness, created by a curved roof and a triptych of enormous sliding windows that ingeniously retract to reveal that rarest of sights: a pleasant view of Camberwell.

After a short drive through the snarled Saturday-morning streets of south London, the second property, The Deckhouse in Hammersmith, came as a total contrast to the warm and modest design of the Egers. This, presumably, was the in-Duckham's oil depot, it is described by its architect, John Young (a director of Richard Rogers, which is based next door), as a flat. In a purely technical sense he's right; there is one bed, a cooking surface, a single study of sorts. However, Young doesn't do rooms, he does spaces, and this vast "flat" could comfortably commodate several houses within its voluminous boundaries.

The main living-space has a heated floor made of polished concrete and finished with beeswax. Huge, heavy glass doors suck shut with an impersonal precision, and a yellow steel-and-teak staircase



wraps dramatically around the walls, rising to an orange bed-platform suspended from the ceiling by four slender steel rods. Four floors up, with expansive floor-to-ceiling windows, it offers a spectacular perspective on the river while the stairs continue up to a 360-degree roof observatory.

According to Young, "it leans towards the Japanese belief that only through function and purpose is beauty attainable". A pile of cash the height of a skyscraper doubtless helped, too. The bathroom - or, rather, the "bathroom tower" - is accessed through an airlock, constructed from translucent glass bricks with a clear glass-disc ceiling, and is located on the roof in the manner of a modernist outhouse.

It is unquestionably a staggering building, its impact amplified by an absolute lack of clutter and personal possessions. A copy of The Independent and a pair of binoculars were the only signs of habitation; everything else was slammed away in uniform, safe-sized stainless steel units. Some of my fellow tourists detected, in the architectural subtext, an overtly masculine monument to someone with - how best to put it? - a well-defined sense of their own self worth. Such excess, such opulence, such perfection. On the plus side, though, there is a great view of Craven Cottage, Fulham's football ground.

Then it was shoes on - did I mention that it was a "shoes off" kind of place? - back on the coach, and on to King's Cross. The Flower House is Peter Romanuick's creation, a modern, steel-and-glass-framed dwelling in Cynthia Street, an unpromising stub of a road in the grubby underarm of Angel.

Footwear wasn't an issue in this domestic dwelling. There was a wet J-cloth in the sink and a reassuring

(about 12,000 acres) in south-

west China. There are around

30 types of hamboo here, in-

cluding Nan, Mao, Golden, Fishpole, Turtleback and

Flower bamboo, so you should

country's "most ruthlessly

The Bamboo Sea is a national park, set over the puddle

find something you like.

patch of mildew on the shower curtain. "It's nice to know you're human," one woman remarked. Romannick's pad is arranged on a garage model - "Not so much a home, more a light industrial unit" - though a reasonably conventional, open-plan oblong downstairs, up above it comes into its own.

The space is divided into six units, the front three of which make up double bedrooms. The rest of the space is a highly unconventional wall-less arrangement of shower, bath and dresser. No one was brave enough to use the toilet, which sat in a cupboard-sized space behind a sliding door of translucent glass.

The tour didn't consist of passive appreciation, though. Subtle glances of criticism were exchanged as people wandered about comparing the different houses. Some were less subtle: "Look at the state of the decking," one woman whispered archly in one abode.

The last two houses, off Liverpool Road, Islington, are home to nextdoor neighbours Peter St John and Marcus Lee, former colleagues at Richard Rogers. In the first of these, St John revealed that "the house is intended to be more relaxed than architect's houses tend to be".

Despite this, it was shoes off as we went upstairs. The wooden floors were treated with a clear, stainless lacquer, curtains were replaced by rolls of felt that hooked above the windows only when required, and a wide strip of Triboard (the material used to make billboards) functioned as a contemporary balustrade. It was something of a chaotic space ("intentionally rather disorientating") with wonderful high windows.

Stepping next door, to the last house, the tranquil Marcus Lee, a mellow. reflective kind of man, revealed himself as a pragmatist. His warm, timber-framed house is arranged around a central atrium that opens the space and connects floors of the building.

This, too, was a real house, inhabited by real people, which creaked and gave. We wandered around, shoes on, occasionally knocking things over guilt tinged with relief that here there were in fact things to knock over.

For a copy of the spring programme send an SAE to: Architectural Dialogue, West Hill House, 6 Swain's Lane, London N6 6QU or call 0181-341 1371 for bookings and information. The next Architects' Houses tour is on 29 May, £39 adults or £25 concessions



Lolling on John Young's sophisticated bed-platform, you can peer out at Fulham's football ground

Tom Craia

Journey to the Source

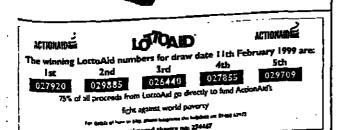
Ever since the East meets West' craze hit British stores, bamboo has been "in", fashionable both for its good looks and because it is a genuinely eco-friendly resource. Lightweight, durable (it's bulletproof), versatile (it's been used to make everything from scaffolding and baskets to lightbulb filaments and Chinese food) artigust about the fastest-graing plant on the planet (it can grow more than 120cm in 24 hours), its anchor-like qualities even help to prevent deforestation in China.

If you'd prefer to see bamboo in its natural habitat rather than on a Surrey coffee table. the Bamboo Sea, one

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efficient" tourist traps. On top of the national park enthough, the place to visit is trance fee (about £1.10) there of the largest stretches of bamboo



THE SHOPPING FORECAST

several other tickets to be paid and, in each valley, further fees and a trail of overpriced restaurants to shell out on. Lonely Planet advises you

of moist green vegetation, inknot to be put off by all this, as black pools and gushing wait is still an extraordinary place to visit, but to "head along the terfalls that covers the valleys trail as far as you can go and and mountains near Yibin, a enjoy the peace and quiet away 60km bus ride (about 75p) away. from the ticket-sellers and the It is an amazing place to look at - perhaps too amazing. The carved bamboo-sellers". Get off the bus at Wanling and seek Lonely Planet Guide to Southout the waterfalls at Forgetting West China (£12.99) warns that Worries Valley and the gloomy it has also become one of the

From here, there's a cable car up to the top of the ridge (about £1.50 one-way). Alternatively, head for the 20m-high bamboo at Jadeite Corridor or the Looking at the Sea Pavilion, where the view sweeps down across the canopy of wispy bamboo heads that gives the Bamboo Sea its name.

If you want to take some bamboo home with you, you will find the stuff all over China - a friend recently picked up a set Pieces include the bent bamboo

pools of Black Brook Valley. of five bamboo paintbrushes in Peking's Saturday flea market for Y20 (around £1.50). Alternatively, wait until you're back in Britain and nip along to Emily Readett-Bayley in south London (0171-231 3939). The covetable range of pure bamboo designs here is sleek and modern and has little to do with the mass-produced Victorian furniture or Seventies caneware that British people have come

to associate with bamboo.

chair, £255, and two-person seat, £510, shown left - perfect for lolling back on and calculating the number of bamboo paintbrushes you'd have to sell to finance a trip back to China.

If you book today, Bridge The World's (0171-911 0900) special offer fare of £310 on KLM from the UK to Peking, works out at around 200 sets of paintbrushes.

Gadget of the week Conscientious travellers need look no further than the Micromap®. This is a nifty little gadget that can be worn round your neck. You read the playing card-sized maps (it holds up to six at one time) by moving the



to do this so it's best to stop pedalling first, if you're on a bike. Available in various series including road maps, UK cities, Ordnance Survey maps, cycle routes, weekend walks,

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US cities. US national parks, London streets and London guides), the viewer costs £14.99 and each series of maps costs £9.99 (ring 0800 783 8740 for stockists or e-mail: info@ micromap.co.uk).

RHIANNON BATTEN

The Pyramids at Giza, the Monastery of St Catherine & the 'Rose Red City' of Petra

THREE GREATS of the ANCIENT WORLE

years ago when he travelled from Agaba across Sinai and Suez to Cairo and recounted in his classic 'The Seven Pillars of Wisdom'. Then the journey by camel took a considerable time but today modern highways and hydrofoil services across the Red Sea have very much reduced the journey time. The advantage that this particular journey has over others that we had planned and operated previously, besides the moderate tariff and the scheduled flights, is that we are now able to avoid backtracking by flying first into Amman (overnight flight) and returning

n many ways this journey follows much the same route as that

directly from Cairo. Commencing in the trose red city of Petra with a stay of two nights, we then make the short drive to the port of Aqaba for the hydrofoil service to Nuweiba on Sinai. Here we stay for two nights of relaxation with visits to the Coloured Canyon and the Monastery of St Catherine. We then cross the Sinai to the Suez Canal and on to Cairo and three nights at famous 5-star Mena House Hotel. See the Pyramids. the Sphinx and the treasures of Tutankhamun at the Egyptian Museum before lying home directly from Cairo.



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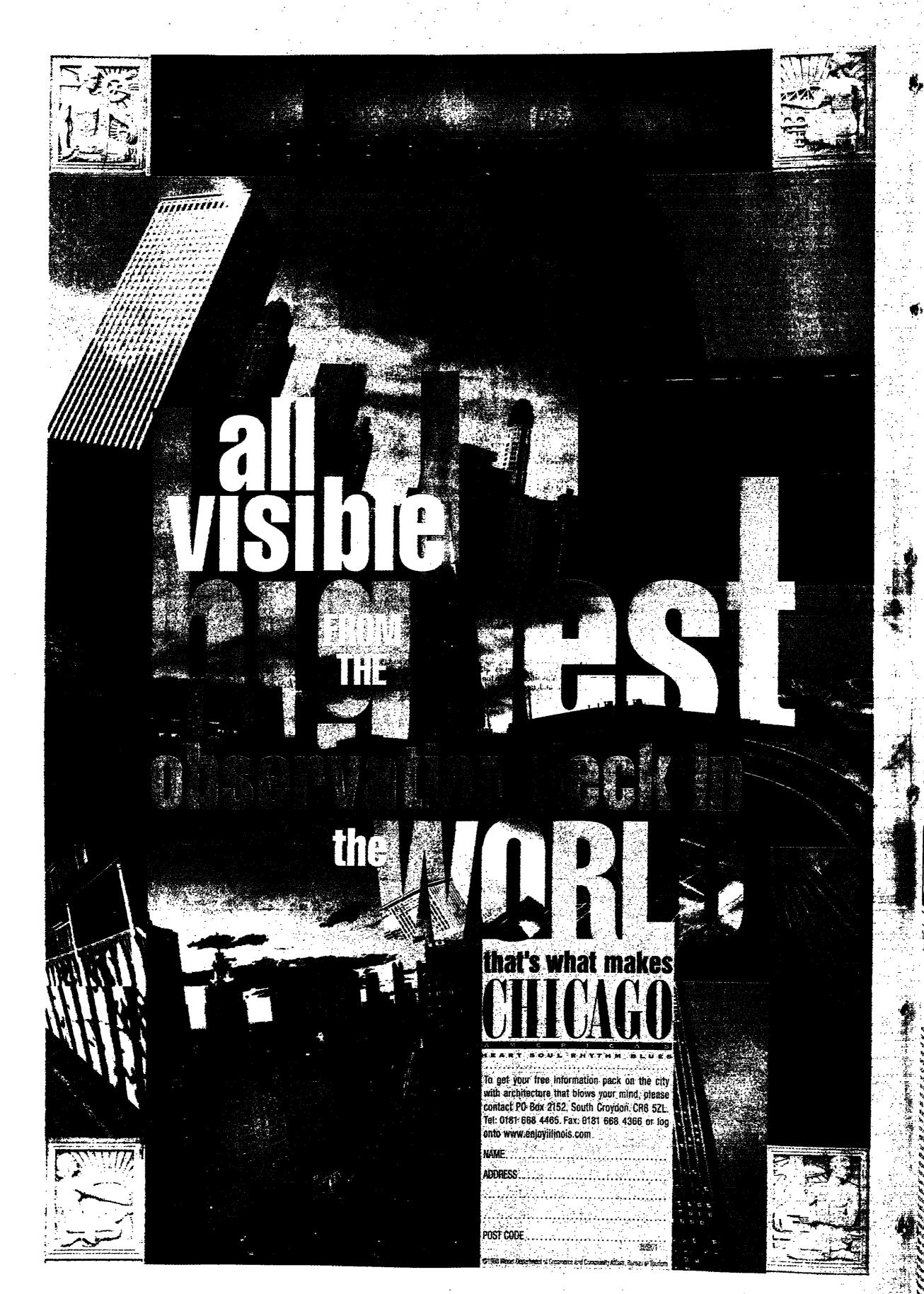
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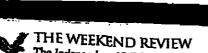
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SHOULD YOU ever decide to apply for a rail franchise, this is how it works. You look at the services that the Government requires you to run; consider the rolling stock available to you; and offer a deal that enables you to make a healthy profit. What you do not do is take part in a lottery with all the other would-be train operators and cross your fingers, hoping for one of the better franchises.

Yet anyone listening to Allan McLean of Virgin Trains on Radio 5 Live on Thursday morning would be forgiven for thinking that Richard Branson had been most unfortunate in picking the booby prizes in the privatisation raffle. Mr McLean was seeking to justify his company's dismal performance in the

latest reliability statistics. "What you've got to remember," he said, "is that Virgin Cross Country runs the longest routes in Britain, such as Aberdeen to Plymouth, and we have to operate them using locomotives that date back to the early Sixties."

And what you've got to remember, Mr McLean, is that all this was painfully apparent when Virgin decided to tender for the franchise. Your company looked at the woefully underfunded railway industry and successfully bid for two of its most neglected components, in the hope of making lots of money. So don't express surprise at the difficulty of providing a decent service.

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SIMON CALDER

Was Richard Branson just unfortunate in the rail privatisation raffle? Not exactly...

change my travel agent from the local branch of Going Places to a Thomson "Preferred Agent". The one suggested was Miss Ellie's International, located beside the A6 in Stockport; I live in London, which as the road sign shows is

nearly 200 miles away.

That really puts the

"travel" in travel agency, I thought as I battled through the wintry wastes to this week to book my May Day holiday to Greece, of Stockport. To be fair. Thomson says: "It is not our intention to send our customers all over the country to book a holiday; in fact, one of the main criteria used to suggest their nearest Thomson Preferred Agent shop was for it to be in their post code area or within 15 miles of their home. However, with a substantial mailing such as this there are bound to be

teething problems." But why should I change agents anyway? Thomson says: "For those who have travelled with us in the

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past and want their next holiday to be with Thomson a Preferred Agent is the best place to visit."

After a three-hour journey through sub-zero. temperatures, Miss Ellie's International was definitely the best place to warm up. My enquiry was dealt with promptly, politely and without bias. There are relatively few operators offering holidays in the Ionian Islands over the first May bank holiday, but the agent recommended First Choice and Priceright as two that do. That is a virtue of an independent travel agent; big, vertically integrated chains such as Thomson (owner of Lunn Poly) and Airtours (Going Places) make no secret of their aim to sell "in-house" holidays. But how independent is your agent? You should be aware that

the Travelworld chain is now part of Airtours, and that 350 members of the Advantage consortium have signed up for a marketing push with Airtours. Be careful out. there - or make the long hike to Stockport. MISS ELLIE'S International is handy for Manchester

airport, so I called in there too. On Wednesday delays and cancellations were the order of the day. The explanations were baffling, though: passengers waiting for the BA flight to Milan were told, "This service is currently technical". I should iolly well hope it is, like every modern aircraft. thoroughly technical. And

British Midland explained

the delay of the London flight by saying it was "Because of Heathrow", as though that were explanation enough. My Virgin Train, meanwhile. was right on time.

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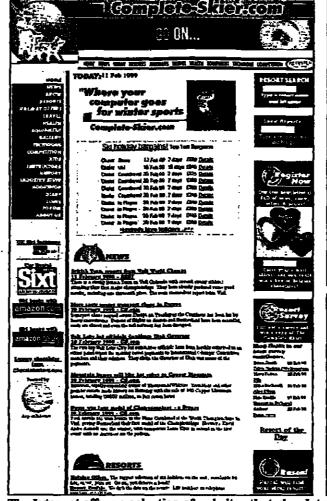
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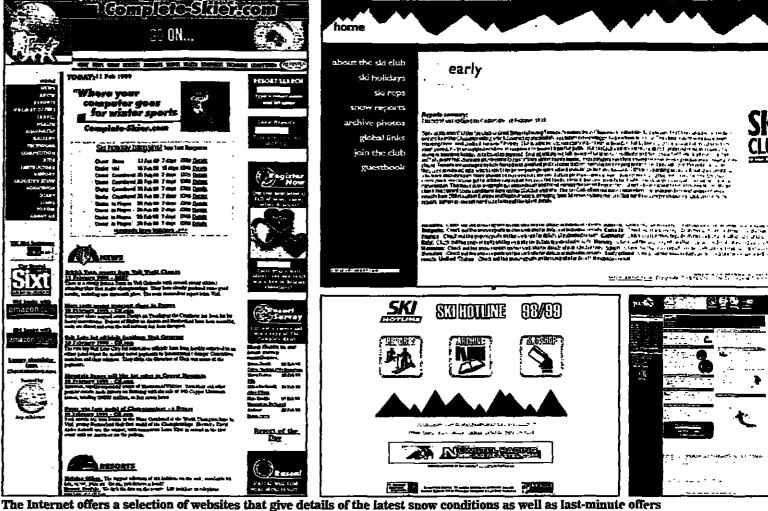
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The season to come

For skiers not daunted by the extreme winter weather that claimed a dozen lives this week, Stephen Wood assesses the prospects for late bookings

the major ski operators were getting worried. The season had gone tolerably well: nothing to write home about, but sales were generally at a similar level to those of 1997/8, despite the dark clouds hovering over the retail sector. What was causing gloom among the operators, however, was the weather over the Alps, particularly in France, which saw the biggest sales growth early in the season.

There is nothing like a good snowfall to stir up those skiers who like to book late, after the Christmas and New Year rush. Unfortunately, there had been nothing like a good snowfall in the Alps since early in the season, and late bookings were running at a low level.

reek of January. A cold weath er system dropped up to three metres of snow on the Alpine resorts, and the booking agents' phones started ringing just as anxious operators were announcing their first special offers for February. It was the perfect scenario for late bookers: deep snow and low prices. A quick flick last weekend through the deals available for departures on the 20/21 and 27 for bargains this week it's half-February revealed discounts of up to 45 per cent.

for Norway and Bulgaria, where the snow is not so good as in the Alps; but there were big savings, too, in Verbier (38 per cent) and the Austrian rescrits of Scheffau

How have snow conditions

been shaping up in the

major European skling des-

tinations during the week?

Austria: Throughout the Aus-

trian resorts conditions are ex-

ceptional, but the Arlberg area

stands out: with a whopping

450cm on its upper slopes, St

Anton offers superb powder

skiing. Only Schladming to the

east seems to have missed out

on the bonanza, with only 50cm

on its lower slopes. Elsewhere,

JASPER REES

It suggests a lack

of confidence that

'Days Like These'

had to gun for the

decade. Pick on a

most risible

decade your

Like this:

(31 per cent) and Niederau (30 per cent), all of which had excellent snow conditions - although the avalanche danger, tragically manifested in Chamonix, meant that some ski areas were closed.

At the beginning of every ason, the operators' chorus is that there will be few bargains for late bookers; but by the middle of every season barring highly unusual circumstances - bargains become available. Since no operator wants to find itself in a position where it could sell more holidays if only it had more capacity, the tendency is to err on the generous side. This season overall capacity seems likely to exceed demand by 10 per cent, unless the recent snowfalls stimulate better-than-usual late bookings. Cutting prices eats All that changed in the last away at already paper-thin s: but the operators fixed costs (charter flights, accommodation and coach transfers to which they are committed in advance) mean that any income will improve

their profit-and-loss balance. For those skiers who travel in groups, want specific resort accommodation, or are restricted to peak-period trips by school holidays (don't look term), booking early is essential. For others, the argument True, the best bargains were for late booking has grown stronger in the last two years. Wouldn't you prefer to know the conditions in a resort before booking a holiday there? The

increasingly comprehensive

snow-report sites on the Internet make that possible. And electronic technology makes finding ski holiday bargains that much easier.

The best of the snow-report websites are those provided by Ski Hotline and the Ski Club of Grani Britain. Both offer information, regularly updated (in theory, if not always in practice, on a daily basis), on conditions in resorts - 180 of them on Ski Hotline's site, 200 on the Ski Club's. Ski Hotline offers more

At the beginning of every season, the operators' chorus is that there will be no late bargains

detail on snow conditions and weather, plus a link to extensive "profiles" of the more popular resorts; the Ski Club site is less encyclopaedic, but includes a feature of particular appeal to snow-seekers, namely an index of those resorts with the best conditions, judged by the depth of snow on the upper slopes, the amount of powder, and the greatest snowfall in the previous week.

Just how reliable this information is depends, of course, on its sources. Traditionally snow tourist offices, which have no incentive to understate local cover. According to Paul Wisely, on the brochure prices.

who runs the Ski Hotline site, "Some of them give reliable information, but there are others who will spin you a yarn." The Ski Club uses its own re-

sort contacts to supply the data - although local knowledge about snow cover can still normally be traced back to the resort management. What Ski Hotline does is to seek to corroborate such information via a network of 20-odd reporters in the Alps and by consulting local reps from those operators to which Ski Hotline supplies snow reports, Crystal and Neilson among them. Despite their different retrieval methods, however, the two websites are fairly consistent in their assessments of snow cover in the individual ski resorts. I have used these and other sources for the survey of Eu-

rope's ski areas, below.

ig the best bare not so straightforward. Some websites provide a booking service; the wide-ranging Complete Skier site, for example, links a late-availability list from Ski Solutions with an abbreviated version of Ski Hotline's snow reports, and 1Ski offers a similar package. But the most comprehensive source of latebooking bargains is the Teletext pages. Going through them (1 read 88 last weekend) is a slow, laborious process; and because the tour operators provide such limited information on their reports come from resort own pages, it takes detective work to identify the holidays and thus calculate the discount

Having done my consumer research on Teletext for next weekend's departures (finding an average discount of 33 per cent), I rang Ian Simkins, ski manager at Thomson, for an expert view. He admitted that sales for the week from 20 21 February had been "trickier this season than in previous years, so there are good deals available". Look to Italy, he said, for the best bargains, and flights from Birmingham and Manchester. (He wasn't kidding: Thomson has a basic. self-catering week in the Italian Alps priced at only £189, flying

from Manchester.)

because his company is developing its own late-booking website. I had a preview of it. and was very impressed. It is a delightfully straightforward, easyto-use site; you check a resort s snow report (the data is admittedly too limited at the moment, with only weekly updates from Thomson reps), and -if conditions are good enough - scan the company's deals there. Other operators will surely copy such a good idea. and this time next season, the argument for late bookings should be even stronger.

Mr Simkins is keeping a

close eye on the market now.

Website addresses mentioned include: www.skihotline.co.uk; www.skiclub.co.uk; www. complete-skier.com: and also www.oneski.com, Alternatively, see Teletert, page 226. Your Money. page 8. today features a guide to ski insurance

mayeur (which has 200cm on its

upper slopes) can have no com-

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SOMETHING TO DECLARE

A SURVEY OF SNOW CONDITIONS AROUND EUROPE

The weather outlook is unsettled, but temperatures should continue to stay low. France: All over the French Alps, with the sole exception of the southern resorts, snow is extremely plentiful. Châtel has 400cm on its upper slopes, while Flaine has good powder and a total depth again of

sorts is an excess of snow: avalanche risk has restricted some ski areas, notably - for ob-French Pyrenees and Andorra, however, is not nearly so good. Temperatures have been very low this week, but changeable weather is forecast.

you can't go wrong in Austria. 400cm. The problem in some re- ltaly: Although the eastern side of the Alps has missed out on the big snowfalls, all the main Italian ski resorts have vious reasons - at Chamonix reasonable cover - which was and Argentière. The snow in the not the case earlier in the season. Among the areas which could do with more snow cover are Clavière and Cortina, and the Milky Way resorts; but skiers at Madesimo and Cour-

plaints about conditions. Unsettled weather is expected. Switzerland: As in France, the sheer quantity of snow has caused problems, with some ski areas - notably at Wengen and Grindelwald - being restricted by avalanche danger or extreme weather conditions. Elsewhere in Switzerland the skiing is excellent, with Villars and Les Diablerets looking particularly good.

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o profound has been the sights and sounds of 7 nights from £595 Andalucia its imagery has been summed up as a cliché for anything Spanish, yet Andalucia is in many ways completely different from any other part of Spain, be it in the attitude to life of its people or its culture which owes more to its 'Gilano' Flemish roots as in Flamenco and Moorish ancestry than it does to Spain proper. There is a vibrancy and a lust for living which is apparent in the music and pursuits of its peoples, be it horsemanship, the Zapateado dance, or the flamenco guitar.

The Andalous live in an against magnificent scenery of rolling countryside, mountain peaks of the Sierras, and plains that stretch as far as the eye can see with white walled houses glistening against a brilliant light. The Moorish and Catholic influences can be seen wherever you go - the Moorish Alcazar cheek by jow with the Catholic Cathedral in Scrille. the Mezquita in Cordoba, the Alhambra and Generalife Gardens at Granada, contrasted with the sedate almost British of the old school in Jerez de la Frontera, and the dramatic hillside towns such as Ronda which owes its appearance from a more



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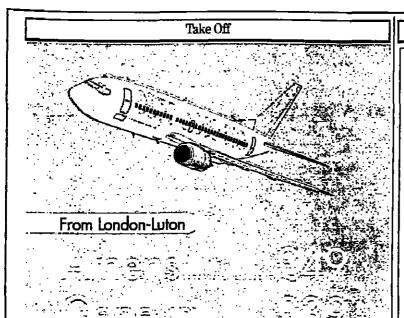
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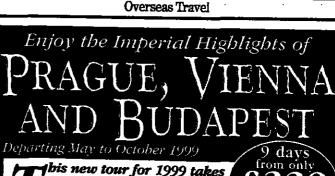
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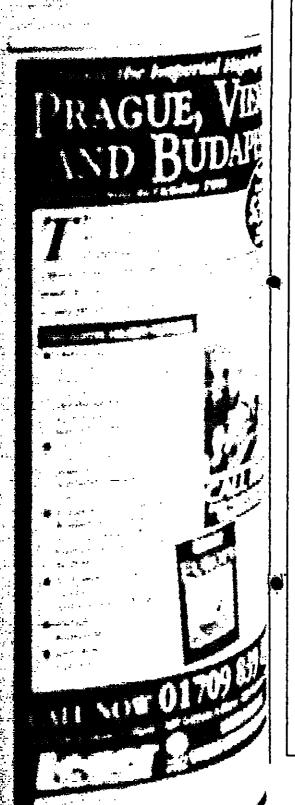


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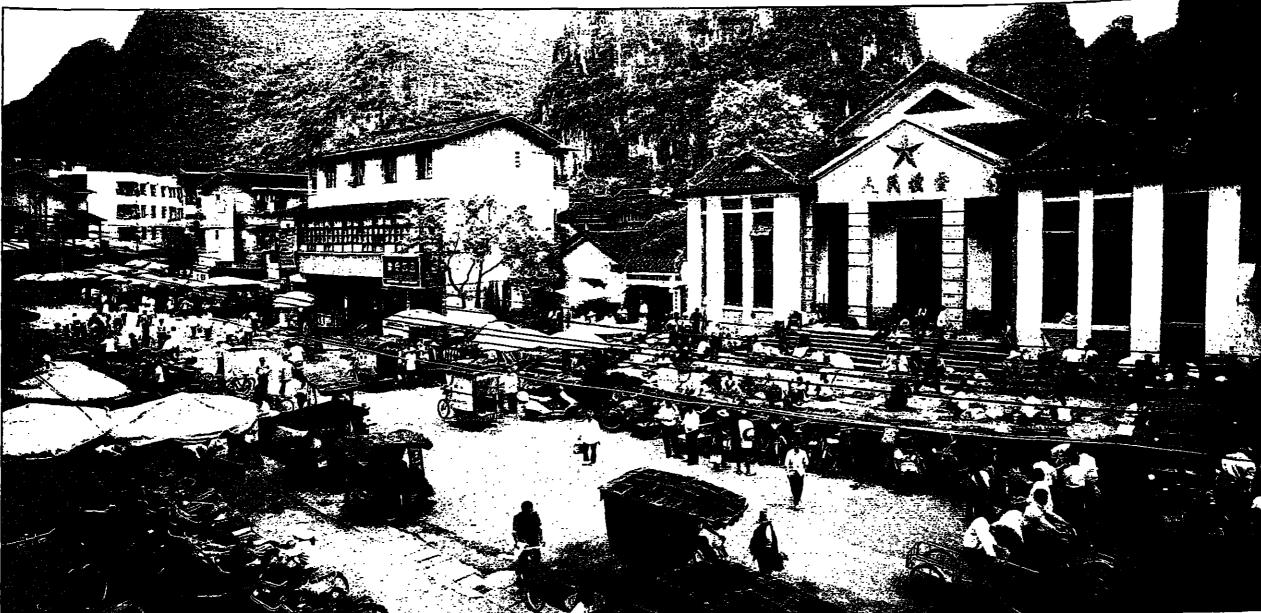


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The mossy limestone peaks that tower over Yangshuo's streets and paddy fields have inspired Chinese poets to describe it as the most beautiful place on earth

A different kind of country life

In the first of three stories to celebrate Chinese New Year, Katherine Tanko tours Yangshou's limestone peaks and paddies

cafés, everyday Yangshuo lives on. Tractors heading for the fields putter noisily down cobbled streets; men huddle outside shops playing mahjong, while kids wielding badminton rackets leap and squeal in the streets. And visitors are welcome.

But things have changed in Yangshuo. This small country town in Guangxi province, south-east China, has created its own special niche in stream of tourists from nearby Chinese poets as the most beautiful place on earth, and better known than Yangshuo - more people are forgoing the safety of Guilin's starrated hotels to wallow in Yangshuo's authentic country charms.

The town now boasts enough amenities to serve as the ideal base for exploring Guangxi, and travel agents in town can arrange tours, tickets and excursions to the local attractions such as Dong villages and the famous rice terraces of

stalls and tourist ty to do right here. There are bicycles for hire, and the aquatically minded can even rent kayaks for a day on the river. If your stay extends beyond a few days, you can sign up for some Mandarin, t'ai chi or Chinese cookery lessons.

For a first-hand glimpse of country life, though, you can join up with Li Yun Zhao, one of a dozen local farmers who offer tailor-made tours into the countryside. These popular tours give visitors a chance to experience village life at close the country's burgeoning tourist quarters and to sample authentic trade. Cashing in on the steady rural cuisine, since lunch in the guide's own home is included. A bicycle, some basic English and a notebook to record the glowing comments of satisfied customers are all that's needed to launch a lucrative career as a rural tour guide.

Li first began giving tours in 1992. "I needed to make money," she explained, as we set out from Yangshuo on foot. "My house was very old and I wanted to send my three children to school. A few women were already doing tours and I thought, hey, I can do that."

We cut down a dirt path and

eyond the souvenir Longsheng. But there is also plen- were soon lost in the undulating karst rock landscape for which the Guangxi region is famous. Mossy limestone peaks tower above a patchwork of fish farms, citrus groves and paddies, laced with meandering, jade-green streams. group of women, knee-deep in paddy mud, teased Li as we passed, scolding her for strolling around when there was work to be done. I

Visas: British

a Chinese visa, which is most

Martin's Lane, London WC2H

9DL (0171-836 3688). Allow a

Getting there: Spring or

autumn are the best times to

visit if you want to avoid the heat

of summer, when temperatures

week for processing.

China Travel Service, 7 Upper St

easily obtained through the

passport holders

need no visa to enter

beyond that you need

was invited to roll up my trousers and get down in the mud to try my hand at transplanting the tender

Collective farming ended here in 1981, when every family was allotted a portion of land. Li spoke with candour about life for the contemporary Chinese peasant. "Before, if you were lazy or worked hard, you got the same. So no one bothered to

FACT FILE

centigrade. There are no direct

flights to Guilin from Britain.

Specialist tours can be arrange through the China Travel

Service (0171-836 9911). There

are daily flights between Guilin

and Peking (around £350 return)

from Hong Kong to Wuzhou and,

from there, get an overnight bus

or you can take a hovercraft

to Yangshuo, for under £50.

The easiest way to get to

Yangshuo, though, is by boat.

360Yuan (£25) and take around

River tours from Guilin cost

can reach 40 degrees

work hard and there were some bad harvests. Now, if people work hard, they can do well for themselves." We passed through a small village

where the sound of voices reciting lessons echoed from a schoolroom. On one grassy verge a lone toddler sat clutching a rice bowl while his mother worked in the fields nearby. "No mother-in-law," Li commented sadly, and asked how women in the

said. "We get along very well now." It's no wonder. Li is the family money tree, sometimes earning in a week what other farmers earn in a year. Thanks to her success, the

In the front room, a huge television sits beneath a shrine invoking the six hours. You can also get there by local bus for a very ancestors to bless the family with reasonable 5Yuan (50p). good hick, and the walls are covered in the school certificates of her Where to stay: The Yangshuo three children - a triumph for a Paradise Resort (00 86 773 882 woman who managed only three 2109) offers internationalyears of school before being relestandard rooms starting at gated to the family kitchen. US\$100, but you should be able to save up to 50 per cent by

Li served a lunch of fried lotus flower, spicy chilli salad and soup. We wolfed the food down while watching a Qing Dynasty-era soap opera on her television. "That was a very bad time," she said gravely, as the image of threadbare peasants fighting desperately to catch handfuls of grain filled the screen.

West could manage without the live-in help most Chinese families take

for granted. Her relationship with

her own mother-in-law had a rocky

start, marked by conflicts that had

sometimes even led to violence.

"But that's all in the past," she

family now lives in a two-storey

house, complete with satellite dish.

After the tour, you can unwind on a boat trip. The five-hour ride to the village of Yangdi weaves through some of the prettiest sections of the Li River, and craggy peaks with names like White Tiger Hill and Pen Holder Peak hug the river's edge Fishermen on rafts made of tightly lashed bamboo skim across the water like gondoliers, ignored by the water buffalo grazing by the shore.

Follow the river south for an hour and you reach Fuli, a small village of crumbling stone houses. Its main attraction is the twice-weekly market, which draws thousands of people. Here you can see the machi-nations of China's free-market ethic in full flight.

Everything from toads to rat poison - and all the more conventional products in between - is flogged in an enormous market square the size of an aircraft hangar. The day I visited, there were giant tubs of catfish and eels, sacks stuffed with tobacco and men barbecuing pork trotters with a blow-torch. After an hour wandering around the market, I climbed on the bicycle I had brought by boat and cycled home to Yangshuo along quiet country roads.

The great call of China

The collapse of the south-east Asian economy is bad news for Chinese tourism but means there are some great deals available for Westerners. By Neil Taylor

FOR THREE days towards the end of last year, the Shanghai Exhibition Centre exuded confidence and colour. It had become home to the first serious travel trade market held in China for more than 10 years. The tour operators, who came from all over the world, were faced with a choice of hundreds of local agents and tourist boards, each vying for business and eager to promote a specific town or province - the

choice on offer was bewildering. No longer do you simply take a Yangtze cruise; 10 companies compete in schedules, standards and price. No longer are you grateful to get a seat on an aircraft; between Shanghai and Peking, for instance, there are now five competing airlines and flights every hour, with three classes on board most aircraft.

Clear marketing differences have emerged between the old tourist favourites such as Peking and Xian known centres on the other. The former hope to keep visitors longer by publicising new attractions with their low admission (ees and quiet locations. In Peking, for instance, tourists are encouraged to visit the house and garden of Song Qing-Ling. widow of Sun Yat-sen, and to look down on the Forbidden City from Coal Hill. In Shanghai, while it is still pos-

sible to see the site of the First National Congress of the Communist Party, tourists are now encouraged to visit the stock exchange in Pudong. Towns that Westerners traditionally ignore, such as Nanjing and Kunming, Guizhou and





Yangtze cruises are offered by numerous companies

Shenyang, now boast their easy access and many comfortable hotels. These places also promote the image of still being "real" China, a clear attack on the skyscrapers that dominate the Peking and Shanghai cityscapes. The rural areas use a similar line of attack; the brochures portray only a China of flowers. streams, monasteries, bicycles and one-storey family houses centred

around a courtyard. The travel industry in China always puts on a brave face under increasingly difficult trading conditions. From the round of receptions held in conjunction with the Travel Market, few outsiders would have guessed that 1999 will be the first really tough year in tourism that

China has had to face. The boom from South East Asia previously seemed never-ending, as did the newer, rising market from Russia. As a result, new hotels have been built to cater for a market that no longer exists, and European and American buyers were aware of this when they negotiated prices for their new brochures.

The brashness of the Travel Market could not disguise the empty seats on aircraft into China, the overabundance of hotel rooms throughout the country and the enormous number of taxis always available.

Many Western buyers hope to approach hoteliers during the spring following a bleak winter, both literally and metaphorically. They will then also have ammunition for renegotiating with their original partners. Similar tactics will be used with

guides and transport companies. For the prospective Western visitor, this scenario is ideal. I have just prepared a costing for a client who wanted to repeat a long individual itinerary last made in 1984. The price of £2,300 is identical but the differences are great. Flights will be in modern American aircraft and not in older Russian ones, drives will be along highways and not tracks, train journeys can be measured in hours rather than days and overnight stops will be in four-star hotels and not in poorly lit lodges.

If most of 1999 will be tough for tourism in China, the People's Republic should be able to look forward to a happy 50th birthday in October. Visitors will appreciate the pageantry that is bound to accompany this great occasion, and so will come in large numbers. Some may even be willing to pay what the Chinese regard as normal hotel rates, for the privilege of being there then.

The writer is director of Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711)

TRAILS OF THE UNEXPECTED ...

... through the Chinese quarter of London's docks

booking through an agent. It's

private guest houses, many of

with private bath, for a fraction

also worth checking out the

which boast "luxury" rooms,

of the price.

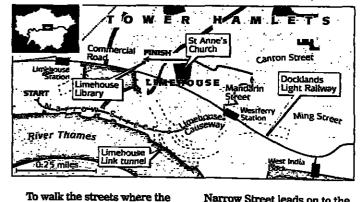
"There were opium-dens, where one could buy oblivion, dens of horror where the memory of old sins could be destroyed by the madness of sins that were new.

Not a had description of Fleet Street, you might think, but in fact Oscar Wilde is illustrating an area of London three miles further east: Limehouse, on the north bank of the Thames.

A century ago, the capital's first Chinatown was established here among the vast warehouses, frenetic docks and decrepit dwellings. Much of it has been obliterated since then, by bombing and redevelopment, but the intrepid traveller in search of the Chinese connection will find much else of interest.

London's docklands began life exactly 200 years ago, when Parliament gave approval for the first modern dock, the West India, carving a great trench from the Isle of Dogs. As such, it attracted workers from the countries with which much of the trade was conducted. To 19thcentury entrepreneurs, China appeared to be a source of unlimited cheap labour (it looks much the same to 21st-century investors). Many young Chinese were taken first to the mines of the Transvaal, where they laboured in what one historian described as "sinks of indescribable human beastliness".

In comparison, the Chinese sailors employed by the Blue Funnel Line were relatively lucky. They would spend their shore leave in Limehouse, close to the company's headquarters. The ares is named after the lime kilns that processed Kentish chalk: "strange bottle-shaped kilns with their orange, fan-like tongues of fire," remarks Wilde.



seamen roamed, begin at the western end of Narrow Street (signposted from Limehouse station). Those possessed of an active imagination will be able to envisage when the thoroughfare lived up to its name, a conspiratorial huddle of warehouses. Nowadays, many have been demolished and replaced by "executive" housing, while those that remain have been so lavishly renovated that they give not a hint of "dens of horror". One notable relic is the Grapes, a 16th-century pub which appears as the Six Jolly Fellowship Porters in Dick-

ens' novel. Our Mutual Friend. Limehouse was once a hub of shipbuilding, an honour it shared with Deptford across the river. Sir Walter Raleigh sailed from here in 1596 in search of gold in the New World. Today, a piece of modern sculpture, Jane Ackroyd's Herring Gull, enlivens the bleakness of Ropemaker Fields.

This is part of the Thames Path National Trail, but the riverside character has been lost. An early 20th-century guidebook reports "little knots of Chinese seamen can always be observed, and the lodging-houses and eating-places bear signs of which few Britishers know the meaning". Not these days.

Narrow Street leads on to the Limehouse Causeway, and soon crashing across all this history comes the Docklands Light Railway, a theme park ride masquerading as a piece of public transport. Diving under the DLR station at Westferry, you can follow Mandarin Street as far as the bus stop; adjacent, a skewered dragon commemorates the

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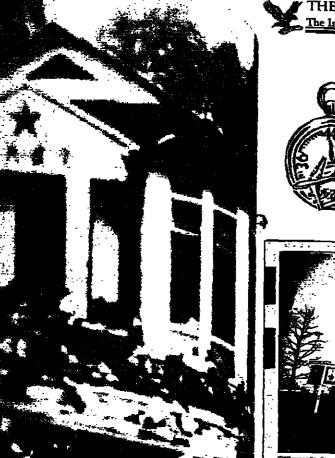
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area's Chinese connections. Cross the six lanes of the West India Dock Road and head along Birchfield Street past Amoy Place. Swing left on to the big. ugly Commercial Road, aka as the A13, venue for a couple of closed-down Chinese restaurants which yesterday were guarded by some older (non-Chinese) gentlemen quaffing an impres-

sive amount of Tennant's Extra. Soon you encounter Nicholas Hawksmoor's finest East End church, the magnificent St Anne's, and the handsome Limehouse Library, with a statue of

Clement Attlee outside. "For the matter of 18d [7p] you are at the Chinese Empire in no time," remarked a historian about Limehouse; these days, you must invest £1.20 in a ride on the 15 bus to Soho to meet London's contemporary Chinese

SIMON CALDER



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CHILLS.

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48 hours ... in Amsterdam

You need a break - and a shortcut to the soul of a great city. Ten years ago The Independent launched 48 hours, an idea often imitated but never equalled. Today, York Membury prescribes the perfect weekend break in Amsterdam



Get your bearings If you fly to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, get the train into the city centre. A word of ning: buy the f6.25 (£2) ticket first, otherwise, like me, you'll have to pay f21 (£6.50) to make the 20-minute journey (ouch!). The historic city centre, much of which dates from the 17th century, fans out from Centraal Station around a series of crescenthaped canals. Since it is so compact, much of the city can be explored on foot ugh it is worth investing in a strip card costing f11.50 which can be bought from the public transport office outside Centraal Station ().

Tread carefully, though: Amsterdam's trams bear down on you from nowhere, there

ppear to be more cyclists than pedestrians and, of course, everyone drives on the wrong side of the road.

Karbeel (7) café-restaurant in

Varmoesstraat, just a few minutes

its mixed plate of meat and cheese.

That, topped off with a Dutch apple

until you touch down in Blighty.

walk from Damrak. It's in fact in the

red-light district, right next to a sex shop. But don't let that put you off. for

served for two at f18.50, is good value.

tart for dessert, should keep you going



Why go now? Spring is approaching and this charming Dutch city is the perfect place to recharge your batteries over a long weekend. urthermore, if you were waiting until April to pay a visit to Amsterdam's splendid Van Gogh Museum, you might as well go now. since the reopening of this museum has been postponed until 24 June. And, on 4 March, Cirque du Soleil stages its European premié

in the city (00 31 20 355 0355 for tickets, or use 0900 0106 when in Amsterda church to Europe's great cathedrals, but it

A walk in the park Open green spaces are at a premium in Amsterdam, as they are in so many Continental cities. So the English-style **/ondelpark** – named after the "Shak of the Netherlands", Joost van den Vondel is an asset, particularly in the summer, wher it plays host to free concerts. With its ponds, lawns and winding footpaths. It's the perfect place for a Sunday-morning stroll. vhatever the season, and there's the attraction of the Round Blue T serving coffee and pastries.

The icing on the cake Amsterdam might boast fine

museums and restaurants, but

mat makes it special is its unique

character - its tree-lined canals, its

trams and its cosy coffee-houses.

The perfect way to round off a

canaiside Flower market 🕲 in

Singel - surely the only market in

the world in which wooden tulips

terdam's many o

look as good as the real thing.

visit is by strolling through the

has two claims to fame: Rembrand is buried beneath it (though nobody seems to know quite where) and it boasts the highest church tower in Amsterdam. If you're feeling energedic you can dimb to the top when the church it open, a climb worth making for the spectacular view. f you're in the vicinity, try to visit the Anne Frank House 📵 in

British Airways (0345 222111) has

current special offer fare of £49

eturn, including tax, from London

Satwick or Heathrow to

Sunday morning: go to

Few people go to Amsterdam to see its churches. But try to see Wester Kerk (5) (West Church) in Wester Markt, it doesn't compare

Amsterdam, but this must be

booked before 17 February, The

national Dutch carrier, KLM (0990

750900) flies from 21 UK airports.

ncluding London, Birmingham and

Manchester. Current fares start at

£109 return including tax, but the no-frills airline easylet (0870 600 0000), has flights from Luton or £70.50 return, also including tax.

Prinsengracht, Everyone knows the story – at least, they should do – of Anne Frank, the tragic Jewish girl who recorded her years in hiding during the German occupation in her famous diary. More than 50 vears on, a visit still makes for a moving experience. Arrive early, though, for most tourists app make the pilgrimage.

Why not forget about a traditional aperitif and experience the

dope is sold legally over the counter and you can enjoy a coffee - or

whatever else takes your fancy – in a haze of cannabis smoke? Two such coffee-shops are the Global VIRage Chill-Out Lounge (0, 51

Kerkstraat, and the Greenhouse Effect (1), 53/55 Warmoestraat (00

31 20 623 7462). Alternatively, unwind at a trendy bar such as Bar

Bep () or Bar Diep (). both found in the virtually unpronounceable

Take a ride Cruising Amsterdam's canals in a glasstopped boat provides the perfect introduction to this unique city with its wondrous vaterways, countless bridges and the distinctive architecture that dates from Holland's Golden Age in the 17th century. Boats depart from a variety of spots around Centraal Station and Damrak 6 every 15 minutes or so, and the one-hour sightseeing tour costs around f12. Alternatively, if you fancy a more intimate, offbeat canal guide to the city in the summer months, contact Boom Chicago (00 31 20 530 7306).

Check in If you want to solash our icheck in to the stately Arpstel Hotel (9 (00 31 20 622 6060) which dominates a stretch of the Amstel river. This is where movie stars such as Brad Pitt stay when they are in town. Though with prices for a double room ranging from f875-925 (£275-£290), you need film-stardeep pockets too. A good medium-priced hotel (costing about f235 (£73) per person per night) is **Nova (3**), Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 776 (00 31 20 623 0066) The budget traveller could try Prinsenhof (2) Prinsengracht 810 (00 31 20 623 1772).

where prices start at (125 (£39) a night

Lunch on the run A popular lunch-time snack is the falafel, essentially a chick-pea kebab. You find falafel stores all over Amsterdam and they cost about the same as an ordinary kebab in Britain. Alternatively, gorge yourself on delicious Dutch-style chips, served with gloopy mayonnaise and costing around f5. Again, they're widely available, though I'd recommend the frittes (chips) stall in Wester Markt (3, about 10 minutes' walk from

Cultural afternoon Visitors are always urged to see the Rijksmuseum 🕡 at

Stadhouderskade 42 (00 31 20 674 7000). Designed in the 19th century, Holland's national museum (which bears a striking resemblance to Centraal Station) houses one of the finest sets of Dutch paintings anywhere. including works by Rembrandt (The Night Watch'). During the refurbishment of the nearby Van Gogh

Museum, the building also provides a temporary home to some of that artist's paintings, among them the sunflowers and some self-portraits.

Window-shopping

A good place to start is Kalverstraat (3), a winding pedestrianised street which follows the old course of the Amstel. Once the site of a medieval cattle market, it is now home to chain stores such as C&A and countless other clothes shops. It's probably Amsterdam's nearest equivalent to London's Oxford Street, and on Saturdays it can be just

More upmarket is the stylish Magna Plaza@once one of Europe's grandest post offices, but now converted into a luxurious shopping-centre dominated by upmarket fashion boutiques. The basement is occupied by a Virgin megastore.

GLOBAL AGENDA

An aperitif

Nieuwe Zijds Voorburgwal.

A perfect way to escape the biting February wind in Berlin (pictured) is to retire to a warm cinema and savour some of the choice celluloid offerings of the 49th Berlin International Film Festival Although a less glitzy affair than Cannes or Venice, there's no doubting the quality and eclecticism of the programme: this year's retrospective will feature the complete works of Otto Preminger and the homage is devoted to Shirley MacLaine, while Berlin is the only mainstream film festival to have an awards ceremony dedicated solely to gay and lesbian film - the Teddies. Running at various cinemas in Berlin (00 49 3025 4890) to 21 Feb, DM12-DM18 per film.

Washington DC Former members of London's O'Oyly Carte Opera company are staging The Best of Gilbert and Sullivan, a lighthearted show featuring melodies from some of the duo's most famous The Pirates of Penzance and HMS Pinafore. The singers -

operas, including The Mikado, Deborah Clague, Patricia Leonard, John Ayldon, David Mackie and Geoffrey Shovelton - will also be airing pieces from some less well-known works,



er and Princess Ido, as well as interspersing the music with anecdotes about performances in London, and stories about Gilbert and Sullivan and Richard D'Oyly Carte himself Baird Auditorium, National Museum of Natural History. Tenth & Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC, USA (00 1 202 357 3030) tomorrow 3pm and 7pm, \$21 per performance.

You're always spoilt for choice for parties in Spain's capital, but some events have better locations than others and the beautiful Bellas Artes building takes some beating. The subtitle of Esto se acaba... (This is coming to an end...) reflects the fact that this year's baile de máscaras (masked ball) is the last of

this millennium, so you can be sure that the costumes, music and performances will be

Dinner

Tourists are usually urged to try one of Amsterdam's many Indonesian restaurants,

but being in Holland, I felt it only right to

sample the real local cuisine. If you also want to go Dutch, try De Blauwe Hollander (2).

Leidsekruisstraat 28 (00 31 20 623 3014). This dimly lit restaurant's menu revolves

around nothing more exciting than meat and

two veg, but it's inexpensive and the portions are big. You may have to share a table, but

restaurants in what is otherwise a very

Ctrculo de Bellas Artes, 42 Calle Alcalá, Madrid (00 34 91 360 5400) today 11pm-7am, Pts6,500.

San Francisco One of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art, San Francisco's Asian Art Museum is an apt venue for celebrating the Tibetan new year

A traditional festival will be led by the Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company, which was formed in 1989 to preserve the traditional performing arts of Tibet. Alongside the singing and dancing, there will be a ceremonial offering to the gods, and activities such as the telling of folk tales, a treasure hunt and the making of prayer

The audience - swelled, no doubt, by locals who attended Beastie Boy Adam Yauch's very successful Tibetan Freedom concert two years ago - will be encouraged to participate. Gruhn Court, Asian Art Museum, Kennedy Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, USA (00 1 415 379 8801) today, noon-3pm, \$4-\$7.

SHARON GETHINGS

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: ROYAL BATH, BOURNEMOUTH



ONLY ONE resort in Britain, so it is claimed. can boast more than one five-star hotel Visitors

Bournemouth can choose between the Carlton and the Royal Bath. The frontage of the latter is currently under wraps as it seeks to trump the offerings of the competition. But beyond the high-class scaffolding, how regal does one feel staying at the Royal Bath?

Last weekend was umusual: the hotel was the venue for the annual Xerox finance division knees-up, and I have never seen so many Escort XR3s in one place before. But a contingent of young guns from Slough could not alter the fact that this is a Victorian venue in every sense. On Saturday afternoon, the faded-elegant lounge was replete with the requisite retired colonel. While the weather raged outside the huge south- (and sea-) facing windows, inside you could hear a monocie drop.

Unlike some more, er, modern establishments, tradition runs deep. In public rooms such as the bar and the much-praised Oscar's restaurant, for example, there is a dress code - strictly no jeans after 7pm. The irony is that

for all its refined clientele, the Royal Bath is part of the Greenall's Brewery group. The Xerox boys demonstrated that they could, indeed, organise a party in a brewery-owned hotel.

ARE YOU LYING COMFORTABLY?

Beds: up to seven feet wide, with seven-inch deep mattresses by Mattison's of Ipswich. Nonsmoking rooms? None. "We don't have specific non-smoking rooms," says the hotel. "We like to think our housekeeping is so good that we don't need it. We also have a special spray that eliminates tobacco odour."

The best key lets you into the ground floor Edward Suite, which has a private door to the extensive garden. The least favoured are "inland" rooms, overlooking Russell Cotes Road; you pay extra for either a seaview or a town-view. Freebies: This Valentine's weekend, red roses and chocolates in every room; normally, fruit and flowers. Not freebies: You can buy a Royal Bath towelling robe for £27. Temperature: "We're Victorian," says the hotel, explaining that anyone who wants to be warmer or cooler will need to call Housekeeping. Bathroom: A piping-hot bath takes seven minutes to run, during which time you can



The lounge is so quiet you could hear a monocle drop

survey the Bronnley White Iris toiletries - including talc and bath saits as well as all the usual smelly stuff.

KEEPING IN TOUCH Television and radio - both emerge through the TV, which has the five terrestrial channels plus a range of Sky stations and MTV. The radio selection is limited to BBC Radio 2, 3 and 4 plus the local 2CR station; none of that noisy Radio 1 pop music or 5 Live sport nonsense. Fax or Internet: Only if you bring your own laptop, and plug it into the ISDN socket if needed. Phone: A three-minute call at national peak rates costs £1.20. Switchboard: I called on three occasions at different times of

the day, and the average wait was only two seconds. On one call. I had to wait five seconds. and the telephonist apologised for the delay.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION At the Bath Hill Roundabout, Bath Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2EW (01202 555555). Transport: Trains converge on Bournemouth from many parts of the country, but the station is way out of town.

Time to an international airport: 15 minutes by cab to Bournemouth, but the only international destination is Dublin. Heathrow is a two-hour drive away. Time to Waterloo

international: Five minutes by cab to the station, then 100 minutes on South West Trains. THE BOTTOM LINE Rack rate: A double room,

including English breakfast in bed, is £155. The Edward Suite costs exactly twice as much. I'm not paying that: Then sign up for a Leisure Break Sunday Night Special, where two people pay a total of £75 for dinner, bed and breakfast. Still too much? Check in to the YMCA across the road, and indulge in afternoon tea in the lounge for £9.25.

SIMON CALDER

WALL ROAD

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SHY BUT FEISTY Attractive temals social worser, 36, into arts. dancing, seeking, an intelligent, canng, tunny mals, aped 30-40, any nation-alty, London 125062 CHARMING AND STYLISH

Lively, positive, suphisticated, successful, professional Asian Hindu ternale, 33, interested in the arts, based in Northants, seeks like-minded, unaitached, sincere, N.S male, 33-38, for likes wining, diring, socialising, holidays, seeks gent, 35-55, honest and shoere, for friend-

ARE YOU MY SPLIT ARABLE I'M 35, solvent, solony, successful, engle, ethy, with canny nature, interested in travel and the aris, looking for fixe-minded mate, 30-40, N/S, for friend-ship initially. Northants aroa, 375,035

politics, world cuisine, seeking a cultural man, 35-45, acadedaire, in the restaurant, mou and pub. Looking forward to the third date, a walk and a chat in the park, as promiser Cheers, Susan, 13:5045 LOOKING FOR A FRIEND Well-travelled, easygoing and optimistic female, 43, recently back in London, GSOH, seeks

professional, sociable male, up to 55 with positive outlook, N.S. to share varied activities.

125021 LOVE AND THE CITY

caren, arectonate, considerate, seeks white, Asian or Onental, sincere gentleman, for long-learn relationship and lasting love. London. 23:5007

ATTRACTIVE & INTELLIGENT Attractive female, 42, independent, enjoys country pursuits, good times, seeking male.
N.S. age not important.

Erudite woman, mid-40s, 5'9", medium-built, own successful ousmess, enjoys badminton. conversation, red white, seets intelligent, professional, non-chauvinustic, tall, well-built man, 35-45. Huddensfield/west Yorks, 12:5010

Call Now! To respond to any Voice Personals' ad call 0897 554 555

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on-ceat, unoticious, undaunt-ed, untypical, unfasable, seeks tall, N.S. sensitive mari, with seeds Mitton Keynes. \$54958. Platishing TOUCH if all you need in your life is a good-looking, honest, trustwor-thy male. 29. 5° 10°, brown-toke, into text cars. Lastino and holiinto (ast cars, lashion and holi-days, call female, 18-35, for a special relationship. Yorkshire/ nnywhore 125029 WOMAN PIRATE

WOMAN PINALE Also writer, rome and gor-goous, M, wolf Davelled, reck-less and shrewd, likes indigo, seeks passionate, conspirator, for high seas. 254796

Stunning black professional female, 30s. sporty, financially independent, enjoys theatre, travel, dining, dancing, and Latin American music, seeks focused, considerate. Ilnancially secure, professional gentleman, GSOH. mkd-30s, 50s, for relationship, 12:4921

relatorship. ##4921
COCKNEY REBEL
SEEKS MR SOFT
Shy lady, 40ish, seeks man to
bring a little sparkle, likes walking, theatrs, dirling a movies.
All replies answered. ##4917
ATTRACTIVE
CANCERIAN
Female, 43, bonde/hazel, 577.
likes winten, dirling, socialising.

Slim, attractive, happy woman, mid-40s, fit, blonde, South Cumbria, seeks similar, dark

man. under 50. 124847

AFFECTIONATE
GIANT WITH INTEGRITY
Desired by attractive, warm-hearled, free spirit, no figh, sinreared, tree spirt, no tant, sin-gle woman, young 40, blonde, 52°, you are 28-38, 6°2°+, well-built, Scothshifrish/ Australian, articulate, arty, out-door type, for rewarding triend-ship and happiness. 22°4838

If you should have any questions about any aspects of our Voice Personals' service, please call FREE on 0800 216 351

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY Professional woman, seekir similar, intelligent, adventu-ous, intriguing man. 40-55, N.S. with VGSOH. West Midlands area. 12/4906 FEMALE, 47, SMOKER remale, 47, Shorker GSOH, likes gardening, walk-ing, animals, eating out, pubs. seeks male, 5'11", with similar interests, for triendship/rela-tionship. 224797

HI THERE!
Frendly, outgoing, independent, pente, protessional lady, loves travel, dubbing, good food and socialising, seeks easygoing, kind, honest man, for fun and friendship. \$24902 WARM, INCREST WOMAN.

WAHM, INTELLIGENT WOMAN Creative, successful, various riterests, young 47, not sim, attractive, optimistically seeking a male soul mate. South London, All replies answered. PARAS 124943 BUBBLY ATTRACTIVE Lady, 30, seeks attractive, pro-tessional mate, with GSOH, to discover if there's more to life

than work! 274886 REAL REAL Stylish London lady graduate. 30+, mixed race, warm, lively, arts oriented, seeks soul mate, 50, Oxford/London. \$24843

NAUTICAL?
Attractive, aubum-haired lady,
early 40s, seeks occasional
weekends salling, off the South
Coast, with an intelligent man,
in 1989, 124891

seeks close relationship with a positive, together, tairly successful male, 12/4916 STREETMATE STREETMATE
Weekend in New York, half
marathon, holiday in loeland.
Can you fit these into your
busy work scheme too?
Mature, successful, eleganat,
professional Cheshire woman,
seeking a similar, confident seeking a similar, confident man, N/S. 224888

man, NS. 184888
JUST HAD
40th BIRTHIDAY
Told life begins there! Fun,
crazy female, two children,
hates housework, loves partying, long convensation, seeside
and country walks, seeking an
attractive, humorous, arry/
musical man, for soul mate.
Cambridgeshire. 184944
WILD THING WILD THING Attractive black female, 24.

FREE SPIRIT
Professional kady, in mid-40s, divorced, own home etc., anloys travel, music, theatre, diring out, the arts, seeks gert, similar interests, for triendship, maybe more.

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9880 216 351

PER SEI Leo woman, looking for a spe-cial allen, sagittarlarv aquarian mate, 45-50, academic/stellec-tust, but healthy SCH & great fun, vegetarian, NS, high-minded, sensitive. Sometime siver, sailer and tennis player. \$14901 134901 SIMPATICA INGLESA SIMPATICA INGLESA
Parl-ime, unatlached man, 4060, wanted for the fun bits in
life: Italy, tennis (the Open in
Rome in May?) Monet exhibiton, TLC, your suggestions.
Reciprocated by London.
Simpatica Inplese. 274911
HOPING TO FIND...
_an easworing. kind, honest.

Attractive, redhead, 36, green eyes, medium build, divorced, into animal rights, seaside, candles, josstoks, honest and

candles, jossiotis, honest and fun, seeks attractive, happy, sensitive, animal lowing male, 33-45. \$24839

MAKE OUR VALENTINE'S SPECIAL Two gorgeous, single men, sought for bind double date on 14th of February, with two equally gorgeous, young, tree women. \$24820

CHARNING AND STYLISH Lively, positive, sopristicated. CHARMING AND STYLISH
Lively, positive, sophistocated,
successful, professional,
Asian, Hindu ternale, 33, interested in the arts based in
Northampton, seeks like-minded, unattached, sincere, N/S,
male, 33-38, for that special
relationship. 13:47:85
SOUTH SOMERSET
Attractive larty stim intelligent

Attractive lady, slim, intelligent, young 60s, enjoys classical music, the ans, environment. who loves ble... ...the way I am? Crazy, uncon-59", 38, many interests, travel, photography, seeks good/bad sides of life, 12'4776 MIDLANDS

Attractive female, 5'5", elim build, dark hair, likes walking, Outo, cark rair, tacs watering, stutling, flying, gliding, more, seeks tall, handsome (hopefully) male, 45+, for irrendship, possibly more. 224761 MAD MARCH HARE man marker, Hartz Fernale, 38, loves countryside, Africa, chema, laughter, pasta, fun, seeks for 1999, like-mind-ed, tall, spontaneous man, 35-45, N/S, with essentially GSCH, London based, 1214763

AQUARIAN Female, 38, 5%, dark auburn/brown, seeks tail, N/S, wity, intelligent chap, GSOH, 40-50, must love countryside.

animals, ancient sights, SW area. 224762 WARRAWITTY IN LONDON Tail, attractive, blonde female, early 40s, seeks down-to-earth man, to share films, meals out/in, wine, chat and whatever else may happen. 124773 Lady, early 40s, seeks male rock-dimbing pariner. Surrey based. \$24774

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men

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seeking

women

LIFE'S GOOD, MAY SÉ BETTERI

MAY BE BETTER!
Are you nomantic, capable of uncontrollable laughter, thoughtful conversation, sensitive handling of a headstrong termale, 40-7 Are you tall, 45+, and not expecting lile to be perfect? Let's talk. Surrey based. 25'4771

CULTURAL CONNECTION
Lively, fun-loving, philosophi-cally-minded male, seeks
European, Latin lady, similar

ROMANTIC MAN
Male, 21, 61°, N/S, brown/
blue, varied interests, puts,
clubs, more, outgoing, seeks
similar temale, 20:50, for rights
in/out. South Wales, 10:5025
HAPPY GUY
Adden male, 27, GSOM of m

Call Freephone 888 216 831 and leave your 35 word Veice Personals' advertisement and hearline. Their you'll receive e-voice mail box number and PIN number with instructions on

recording your personal voice greeting and listening in your responses. Both the advert and the cell to place the

DNA TO SHARE

Possibly intelligent, attractive, slim mate, 38, enjoys country-side, arts, reading, open-mind, with spiritual side, seeking a younger woman, for a shared tuture. South Wales. \$25038

FIT, 40s Romantic, caring male, 40s, 5'6", slim/athletic build, into

numing, cycling, arts, country-side, seeking a temale, aged 30-45, to share all or none of the above. Yorkshire. 12:5018

Tall, stim, attractive, genuine,

nau, sam, auracove, gerune, honeat, professional gent, liv-ing in Somerset, enjoys loodwine, travel, laughter, conversation, outdoor activi-ties, seeks similar, classy, intel-ligent, stimmen laught 40ter, for life love and laughter, \$24,618.

ligent, slimmish lady, 40tsh, for life, love and laughter. 274618

Asian male, 27, GSOH, sim, good-looking, PhD student, likes movies, books, intellectural, seeks female, 25-t, warm and eltractive, for fun and frolics. Cambridge area. 255070

February 14th

Valentine's Day

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TALL DARK AND MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERIANEAN
Professional mais, 6',
black/brown, of Mediterranean
origin, loves leaguing fit, travel,
reading, seeks female, 25-35,
with similar interests, 25-030
LOOKING FOR YOU
Deterral englessional engine

Testined, professional, easygo-ing, kind, gentie male, 68, 58°, GSCH, smoker, enjoys every-thing in tife, seeks mature lamale, any nationality, who's kind, gentie and understand-ing, for intendship initially. 255.040

VELLING MAN

TRAVELLING MAN
Male, 50s, N/S, retired, own
house/car/caravan, much to
offer the right lady, enjoys caravanning in UK/Europe, seeks
stim/med/um lady, no ties preferred, to share interests, plus

READY TO GO!
Male, late 20s, 5'8", dark
brown/greeny blue, enjoys
most things in life, GSOH,
saeks female, for friendship,
backpacking abroad and who
knows? 1274920
THEM OVER TURN OVER...
A new leaf, a new year. Good-looking male, 30, loves cinema, theather, literature, just a little shy, seeks ismale, 23-35, to share life's adventures.

share life's adventures.
London 275042
SPICE MAN
Asian male, 38, seeks female, 25-35, for iriendship, nights invous, cuddles and possibly more. Bristol. 324845

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folion the sample instructions to hear the advertiser's greeting message or to hear greetings from people who match your search criteria. You can leave messages for those who

MALE, 40s SEEKS SOUL MATE

interest you - it's simple, fast and easyl

young looking, charming, intel-ligent, educated, seeks Muslim woman, for permanent rela-tionship. London. 1275009 UNCONVENTIONAL MAN Slim, fit, 55. N/S, with SOH, travelled and creative, with property, enloys beach, books and the arts, fine foot and wine, seeks home-loving, car-ing woman, \$1229 PLENTY TO OFFER
Male, young 50, loves good
food, music, arts, chema,
seeks lady, for a forever kind
of relationship. London.
734966

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH HOW NOTH IT O SCH male, 29, 5"11", caring, faithful, seeks sporty, lunky, radependent, fun-loving, attractive femele, to experience a roller coasser of excitement, travel and romance. 27,4965

COMPASSIONATE MAN COMPRESSIONAL E MAN Young-looking, refined, proles-sional, undergraduate English male, 40s, 53°, sirn, muscutar and 8t, N/S, romante, caring, with GSOH, engoys most things in file, seeks similar temale, for friendship initially. 7±4,93°

THE YOU OUT THERE?
Male, 42, seeks female, 30-32, for tun, friendship, maybe more. \$24899

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Mate 23 Here music, football Male, 21, Skes music, foo and termis, pubs, clubs, seeks femals, 24-26, for friendship, ternale, 24-25, for friendship, possible retailonship. 25:4922. GOLDEN BROWN Mellow, very attractive Asian gury, 32, 57°, graduate, impending professional, enjoys keep-fit, during, danding, solvenoes, arts, conversation, seeks open-minded, Intelligent female, 25-35, for fun times, 374549.

Any Queries?

seeking an attractive, caring lady, 35-50, for triendship. Preferably in Cambridgeshire or London, 22-4908 EXELED NORTHERN SOUL

SEERS SOUL MATE Hard-working male, 44, SW London-based, seeks cool, laid-back, younger, self-opin-onated female, to help change the planet, intelligent conversation, trientiship & more. 274848 GOOD-LOOKING & GENURIE Male mid-file SEP benedit Mate, mid-40s, 58°, based in Brighton, stim build, N/S, files eating in/our, travel, art, seeks lemale, any nationality, 36-46, for companionship, possibly lots more. Brighton. \$74846 ibts more. Brighton. 174846
MUMMY'S BOY
Mature student, early 30s. 54",
red hair, blue eyes, attractive,
homest, with VGSOH. Blees
reading, history, walks, animals, chess, good food and
pubs, having a good time,
seeling London-based, attractive, intelligent, outgoing and
cultured female, 30-40. 1214823

Easygoing, caring gent, 41, 5'8", with GSOH, N/S, medium build, dark/brown, enjoys the arts, walking, cooking, reading etc., seeks sincere, sensitive lady, 20-35, for friendship, pos-sible long-term relationship.

sole long-term relationship.
22-4914
CONIPANIONSHIP AND...
White, professional male, 48, with SOH, interests include photography, hill-welking, listening to mainly classical music, reading, concert-going, seekion an altratche, carino. Seeks symbiosis, with amert, petite, sparky, woman. Me? Versatile, stim, GSOH, sythems, no ties, 49. Words, images, water, inthracy, etc. Surrey. 53:4492
COTSWOLDS CALLING
Marketing consultant, needs

Marketing consultant, needs help to fulfil his personal potential. Exceptional woman sought to stimulate the wirning environment, with this Gloucestershire-based man.

Goucestershire-based man.
50. Love ternily life, food, fun
and France 12:4904
SINGLE IN CUMBRIA
Unattached male, 50, into
walking, countryside, theatre,
dancing, cinema, seeks interesting ternale, 30-50. 12:4889

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SEEKING NEW HORIZONS
Well-travel, adventurous male,
37, loves outdoors, sport, skiing, cycling, seeks active
woman, who also shares a woman, who asso shares a love of the theatre, good lood, health and conversation. Berks/Staffs/surround. 254724 SHRPLY THE BEST

SMPLY THE BEST Male, 29, 6°, tall, slim, darkblue, attractive, erupys travel, music, eating involvi, nights out, photography and sports, seeks attractive, fur female, age/colour unimportant, for friendship, maybe made, 24,885 rant, for friendship, mayor more. 2:4885 ROMANTIC ADVENTURER Male, mid-60s, body 50s. 5'10", mischievous, silmenish, hendisyma arthur, carbot, sel-

510", mischlevolus, summast-handsome, active, caring, sol-hent, retired professional, tac-tile, NS, GSCH, free, seeks youngish, smallish, attractivish, intelligent lemale, is it you? Bristol/Gioucs 25:4890 ROMEO SEEKS JULIET Single male, 20, looking for damsel in distress, for finand-ship, possible relationship. 224837

TAKE A CHANCE AMRE A LIMANUE AMREDITE, mid-30s, 5'10", sim, NS, GSOH, pretty easygoing, enjoys weekends away, visting places of Interests, seeks female, in similar profession/aise, for developing

female, in similar profession/age, for developing relationship. 37:4915

ALONE IN PENEROKESHIRE Tall, sim fit, working wonten, grown up kids, N/S, into advertures, warking and sailing, music, classical/azz, arts and books, seeks fike-minded man, to share and enjoy the fun. 27:4836

DYNAMIC PROFESSIONAL TI 4903
ORIENTAL/JAPANESE
Tall, successful, well-travelled
Englishman. 40, N/S, Stur-London area, seeks slim Far Eastern lady, N/S, for good bines, friendship and maybe more. 124910

DYNAMIC PROFESSIONAL If you should have any questions about any aspects of our Voice Personals' service, please call FREE on 6800 216 351

Male, 30. 6; brownfolue, aver-age build, good-looking, enjoys most titings in Ite, likes music, sport, very confident, outgoing, laid back, seeks temale, 25-33, who's attractive, lively, for rela-tionship, 12-4835 HAPPY AND CONTENTED Merketing manager, seeks 30s lady, to complete the picture. I fike music, good food, countrylike music, good tood, countr side and the out doors. East Midlands. 124840
ARCHITECT
Retired, active male, 60s, 57°, slim build, solvent, N/S, cul-

tured, into visual arts, music, travel, seeks alimmish lemate soul mate. Cambridge. 15/4842 LOXING FOR YOU LOOKelets POH YOU Petired, professional, easygo-ing, kind, gentle male, 68, 518°. GSCH, smoker, enjoys every-thing in the, seeks mature female, any nationality, who's kind, gentle and understand-ing, for thendship luttally. 124,793

Professional, it male, 47, active, into music, arts and mountains, seeks adventurous temale, tor lite risks, West mid-lands, 1844077 lands. 1214907

ARE YOU LOOKING... ...lor someone special too?
...lor someone special too?
Single white guy, 40, 5"11", SE
London, seeks allimimedeumbuilt female. 12"4912
SPORTY MAN

ATTRACTIVE AND FRIENDLY

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A DATE AT THE YATE A DATE AT INE TATE
To shere a passion for
Bonnard! Male, 48, 62", and fit
for more, cycling, salling, salsa
and travelling more through
perversity, than adversity.
ESSEX area. 12:4788
FRANCOPHILE
Besseved, considerate intelli-

Reserved, considerate, intelli-gent, tall, stim, divorced male, 54, N/S, likes tennis, diassical nusic, foreign travel, seeks Imilar lemale, 45-55, N/S, for TYPICAL CANCERIAN
Tail, young 55, som baild,
divorced, shim, lit, sporty, pracbeal, ex-professional, many
interests, N.S. seeks politic,
gentle-matured, adventurous
female, with dark haw, to share
life with. East Angila; London
794770

Call Now! To respond to any Voice Personals' ad call 0897 554 555 ित्रके कहा हो होई प्रशासन में में निर्देश

BLOND & FIT BLOND & FII
Hi there! Attractive male. 36.
Rice working out, socks
lemale, 18-40, for fur and
exclument. London 15-47-60
A CULTURAL CONNECTION
Lively, fun-lowing, philosophically minded individual, seeks.
Europoan-Lahr lady, with similar interests outlook, 3 GSOH

#14766
SEEKING
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Professional Oriental maio, 30,
genuine, attractive, seeks kind,
finendly, Onembliwhite firmale,
21-30, for Inendship, possible
relationship, Likes eating out,
films, music, travel, #147-95
CREATIVE MAN
Male, 33, 54*, blond, goodlooking, illustrator fecture,
seeks similar female, London.

SEEKS 1-2-1 RELATIONSHIP

SEEKS 1-2-1 MELATIONSHIP Good-looking, confident, straight-acting, non-scene, gay professional musician, aged 25, with many interests - cine-ma, socialising, eating out and travel, seeking a similar guy, Continental background espo-cially welcomed. London, #5026

LINCOLNSHIRENOHTOLK
Straight-acting, quot, adventurous, gay male, mid-40s.
52°, sim build, dark halt,
GSOH, enjoys walkong, theaire, travet, good food write,
gardening, seeks same, for
trendship, possibly 1-2-1. Can
travel accommodate, 73'495'.
GAY Walf.

Sim build, 48, 5'7", into the-atre, classical music, eating out, country houses and antique collecting on a modest scale, seeks similar, 35+, for monogamous, one-to-one relasional male, own home, very caring and honest, seeks someone special to share life with. 1274887 CALL ME Male. 27, medium build, fun-lov-

Male, 27, medium bullo, Inter-ing, carmo, hiendh, pisses. 5117, quite good-boking, straight acting/dean-shaven, enjoys theathe, cinema, fisteni to music, seeles long-haired; pony-tal, slim, caring/dean-shaven male. 234779

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Bi-curious temale, young 42, medium build, brown hazrieye VGSON, enjoye sports, chrivin occasional pubreub, chriving, seeks famale, similar squatio interests, for friendship, possi

THE STATE OF STREET of the standard water erriteri k**irik (ilimi 198** and sufficient bearings in the four familians

Independent Hearts

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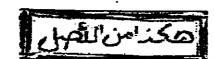


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MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

Dear Serena. St Valentine's Day is merely another commercial occasion which we, as

consumers, have allowed ourselves to be bypnotised into co-operating with. I refuse to be blackmailed into spending unnecessary money by large organisations, but none the less feel myself under pressure to do so. Can you suggest a means whereby I can make my partner understand that I love her without spending money? Steve, Brighton

Two things, Steve: firstly, commercial organisations are very rarely able to sell us things we don't want unless it's via government without our knowledge. Valentine's gifts may be a ghastly commercial tat, but they are merely a commercial response to a very real human need for self-affirmation and/or intrigue. You would, therefore, be well vised to acknowledge these feelings. Secondly, you don't have to spend money, though you might have to sacrifice 10 minutes of your precious time by making a card with scissors,

glue, cardboard, tissue paper and other common household items and leave it somewhere where your partner will find it on the day in question. It is generally a good idea to make romantic or, at least, appreciative gestures within a relationship, as they can disappear altogether without nurture.

Dear Serena. I love my partner very much, but he has a terrible tendency to meanness which he thinks he has disguised with a set of political stances about commercial exploitation and renewable resources. The endless recycling of string and the bits of wood clogging up the garden shed I can handle, but how can I persuade him to drop the pose and give me a Valentine's card this year? Stella, Brighton

Tell him that refusing to participate in loaded emotional occasions, however commercialised, can be interpreted as a sign of spiritual meanness and that you would really appreciate receiving a card

as a sign of his affection. And just in case, spend the housekeeping money on a back-up card to send yourself, that way he will at least have paid for

half of it.

Dear Serena, Last year, I met a girl on the Internet who is everything a man could dream of: slim blonde, small features. large breasts, loves sex (we have had some pretty steamy cybersessions, I can tell you!), is popular. works in the music industry, lives in a warehouse flat in the centre of town, is a cordon bleu cook, and single. We've had a relationship for some months now, and the

he course we plot into the future is

and there are probably icebergs out

of automatic weapons fire and the sight of your

Tutankhamen's sarcophagus was opened, relea

slow motion to the garage floor.

word "moves" is.").

partners clutching at their wounds as they gargle in

It is not a good week, if the past is to be any guide.

the curse which was responsible for the building of the

Millennium Dome. Inquisitorial Christians sentenced

the Netherlands to death in 1568, and that equivocator

Galileo was born ("It depends what the meaning of the

And you wouldn't want to have a birthday this week,

because you would be sharing it with Banjo Paterson

and Yoko Ono (who is sounding increasingly like a cat). There's also that swot, Alessandro Volta, who named

there. Mystics have warned us that St

Valentine's Day may be approaching, so

look out lovers, brace yourselves for a hail

obscured by Time's mists, but it is cold,

time has come to actually meet. The problem is this: I have been a little natruthful with my descriptions of myself, as i didn't think a woman like her would want to

know me if she knew the

truth. How do you think she will react when she turns up to meet a Mel Gibson lookalike with his own company and finds a 20-stone bald bloke who lives in a bedsit and works in a sandwich bar? Oh, and I told her my name was Gideon. Barry, Ealing

> I wouldn't worry too much. Do you really think that the woman you describe is spending her nights sitting in by herself playing lonely hearts on a computer? At least you will have your lively imaginations in common.

himself after a unit of electricity to please his teacher,

as well as that old gloomy-boots. Thomas Malthus,

who ignored the promise of fertiliser to say that we

Aquarians are great sexual democrats but are

invented yet. Aquarians are irresistibly attractive to

sorts - and their supremely original minds inspire

them to triple themselves around their bedposts for

in other fields born this week - three to be precise:

John McEnroe, Barry Humphries and Matt Groening.

But leaving them aside, the rest of it is a lot of actors

and celebrity riff-raff who needn't concern us here.

Things, perforce, will be a bit better next week.

obsessives - their behaviour is familiar to addicts of all

But there are also a small number of humanitarians

totally hopeless at arithmetic. Famous Belgian

verified by a quantum maths that has not been

Georges Simenon's 10,000 conquests can only be

would all die of starvation.

the sake of their partners.

And that gonk, Prince Andrew.

But I would suggest that you both wear unmistakable identifying marks in your buttonholes so you have some chance of recognising each other. The name you might have to change by deed poll.

Dear Serena, I have been to a couple of dinner parties recently where the women were expected to withdraw at the end of the meal. I don't think this is right in this day and age. Do you? Lucy, Harrogate

This is a habit that has pretty much died out in the big cities, generally due to lack of space, but continues elsewhere. Personally, I don't mind it much, as it provides a change of scene when things might be getting dull, and the women, when you finally get to talk to them, often turn out to be a good deal more amusing than the pair of bores one has been trapped between all evening. Remember, also, that men don't actually stay behind to have interesting conversations about world affairs from which you will be excluded, but to indulge in the important bonding ritual of going out into the garden and pissing on the lawn. Insist on staying if you must but be prepared to hoist up your skirts in a flowerbed and squat.

Dear Serena, My cat is fond of chewing things, and is gradually reducing my wicker furniture to shreds. He pays no attention when I shout at him. What can I do to stop him?

Penny, Newquay

First of all, buy some wooden furniture. Wicker is ugly and collects dust, and cats have a refined sensibility when it comes to their surroundings. While you are saving up, you could try a dash of Tabasco rubbed over the parts he's

Knotty problems with the world today Write to Dear Screna, The Independent', 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be dealt with the customary sympathy

most fond of chewing,



ARIES

JUPITER, WITH all its abundant energy, optimism and goodwill, is moving into Aries no wonder you've got that silly smile on your face. You are such a beacon of good sense and selfless help that clever enemies will soon tag you with a Mother Teresa mania, and accuse you of trying to start a crusade for converts. But you can easily levitate out of these situations, leaving confusion and anger far behind. But don't take any negative feelings with you - they don't go with your shoes.



TAURUS

YOU'VE NEVER been tactful (your diplomatic talents have been confined to not blowing your nose on the ambassador's tie), but here, in the middle of a conjunction between the Moon and Venus, you are suffused with sensitivity. You are at ease in the heights of culture - haute cuisine, couture, bourgeoisie. You are an excellent companion and shed lustre on those you partner. However, you will be more than aware of your new powers and will expect compensation (that's an error).



GEMINI

THERE IS a part of you that would quite like to be debased, and now is the time to dive in. A square aspect with Pluto (your relationship with the underworld and the outerworld) can proper you into the depths and distances of passion. You may not know in what direction you are headed, but there is just no time to care. Trust to fate and eat red meat for breakfast. Even if you end up hitting the very bottom of the gutter, you will rise again, and the scars (bar one) will very quickly fade.



CANCER

YOU AREN'T getting enough exercise (and don't blame your partner). You need to feel your heart racing; routine is stifling your vital signs. What you see in the mirror isn't necessarily the permanent you. If you settle for what you have, you'll wake up suddenly and find that you're old. The essential sweetness you produce must be allowed out. Are you consuming enough garlie? That long-legged person will have to pass the garlic test, and so will you.



LEO

COURAGE IS the first virtue, the one that makes all other virtues possible. You are full of the primal stuff - that is why everyone around you is oraced for im L inevare or trying to remember what they have done to you in the past and hoping you are not going to do it back to them. Please do not go back to worry the corpse of old grudges. You are so much better at dealing with the living than the dead (unlike Capricorn) and your friends really do need the transfusion.



Virgo

YOU HAVE a busy week ahead: aspects of Mars, Pluto and Saturn operate on you without regard for your popularity ratings. Mars gives you mental capacity, especially with Saturn steadying a stray impulse towards recklessness (you decide to put your vest on after all). You feel capable of affecting public opinion. You are not usually that good in public so be careful. But at the week's end you'll say what you see whether or not anyone wants to hear.



LIBRA

YOU HAVE been very patient (well, very patient for you...). But if you wait too long, you might just lose the respect of your fast-moving likes pathological behaviour). You must recognise your nature, you are the least balanced sign of the zodiac. Messages from your subconscious are trying to get through. You get a sudden rush of the truth-and-beauty thing early on Thursday. Love is your only haven, but it isn't safe.



SCORPIO

YOUR APPALLING levels of energy are set to continue, and so is your unnerving ability to see things that grosser signs miss. But your patience wears thin and your unforgiving nature becomes dangerously apparent to your colleagues. Suspicions multiply, your brain is like a beehive, buzzing with paranoia (that is the wrong word; it's not paranoia). You can bend others to your point of view without breaking them – do so. It's cheaper.



SAGITTARIUS

THOSE WHO have doubted you must eat toxically humble pie. The energy you generate would qualify you for the national grid. Your growth principle is energised, spring has come early, you're ahead of the pack. But as the Great Souls of the East say: "First up. best dressed". and however spiritual your impulses, clothes are always more important. Make sure you evolve in the right direction. Unsightly growth will have to be adjusted by costly surgery.



CAPRICORN

YOUR FORENSIC abilities (which need no encouragement) are dangerously aroused. Friends are not specimens to be examined on a pin. Nor can you express your passion in algebraic formulae - so stop thinking so much. Your analysis has far too much "anal" in it. But things do improve. Suddenly your hidden side emerges - patience, self-discipline, honesty, all that old-time stuff. This more than anything will deliver what you have been wanting.



AQUARIUS

WHEN PEOPLE say there's no need to get rattled, you can furiously contradict them and blame Uranus. Its lunar aspect leads to far too in your terms. There is a weakness for lunacy in your make-up - it's not just normal irritability. You may decide to remodel your family life. Don't lose yourself in other peoples' points of view. Just because the mountain looks different from every different angle



PISCES

doesn't mean the mountain doesn't exist.

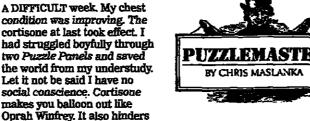
YOUR SOCIAL life is affected by mist, friends become dim and distant, and their voices sound muffled. This is downtime for you. If you feel it's an illness, try cable therapy (you'll need a sofa and a satellite subscription). But remember solitude can be bad for your dress sense. A spiritual fright may unsettle your dreamy convictions. Don't be persuaded that the door to your secret garden has been nailed up. No, the real problem is finding it in the mist.



JEAN-MAURICE BOSC

LARRY (TERENCE Parkes) has sent me two books by his favourite cartoonist, Jean-Maurice Bosc, a Frenchman who found fame in his own country and recognition Proad (Punch, Esquire etc), out committed suicide in 1965, at the age of 41. Larry first saw Bose's work in The Guardian Educational Supplement in the 1950s, while working as an art teacher. "He influenced me more than anything," he says. "I still find him the greatest." Like many new cartoonists of the time. Larry was struck by Bose's captionless economy

and innovatory simplicity, which at times reduced characters to tiny, childlike squiggles. Bosc used these naive figures to express the chilly ironies which preoccupied him. It's not surprising to learn the Frenchman led a hard life. He fought in the Indo-China war, during which he won the croix de guerre and spent 120 days in a Vietcong prison. Nor is it surprising to learn that he served time as a circus clown, another occupation epitomising extremes of comedy and sadness.



the critical faculties. To get the policy towards Iraq. But a best out of a guest, you need to able to monitor what they say. Parkinson recently said that me off course. My second father (I always the reason his chat show is the

best is because he listens. (Hear! Hear!) And here was I had just died. Iris had been with a dud antenna. Consultation with Donald Lane at the Churchill Chest Clinic confirms it. This country's two top experts on my condition godmother I never had. It was she that had agree on strategy: Donald Lane - the country's leading asthmatologist - and me, the

discovered unimagined talents in me. It was she that had country's leading asthmatic. realised I was a puzzlist of a Keep taking the tablets. Soldier on. But it's a relief to joke with someone who understands my daily and private struggle to breathe. It helps to quell the be in shock. It often helps if inner and unbidden lament of "Why me?". Above all it stops me feeling sorry for myself. of wobbly hats to go round.

On with the motley, then. I arrive at St Catherine's College, Oxford as a guest at a celebratory dinner to make Noam Chomsky an honorary fellow. I was looking forward to asking the Grand Old Man how he felt about the track "I am Noam Chomsky" on 70 Gwen Party's Anti-Blue Nozi album. I



would quiz him on American metaphorical bombshell blew

carry a spare) came up ashenfaced and told me Iris Murdoch important in my life. At critical moments she had hovered in the background like the fairy

rare order. The announcement left me numbed. My father, who had been close to Iris and John most of his life, also seemed to someone else wobbles. It's as if there are only a limited number

I remember being asked by Ned Sherrin on Loose Ends to sit next to a very nervous Jasper Conran. This was wiser than I then realised. My nerves vanished. Jasper had the wobbly hat. At the Chomsky dinner, my father had the wobbly hat. But this was a public occasion. We all shuffled off into dinner.

to the second se

Beaux Arts" describes a Brueghel landscape in which peasants go about their earthy and no doubt clichéd - business. oblivious to l'carus's tragic plunge earthwards. There was no time to feel about any of this. The advice of Dr Baxter, my neuropsychologist, is difficult. The show must go on. I hammer out a script. The next day Harry throws most of it out. What remains is a good script. Inside I still feel hollow. At tea with the guests, I make an extra effort to be affable. I laugh at jokes which seemed better told the first time I heard them. But at heart I feel a gnawing depression and a hollowness unappeasable by buns. To my horror, this Vesti la Giubb-ilation starts to work. I enjoy myself. I twinkle. My guests relax. They tip their pearls of wisdom freely on to the dark cloth I have spread before them. Good programme, says

I was reminded of how Auden

in his poem "La Musée des

Driving back that night under real stars, at about Stokenchurch, where the M40 opens up into what looks like the Promised Land but is only the Thames Valley, I suddenly feel wobbly. I pull over and find a hard shoulder to cry on.

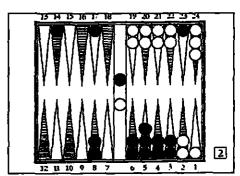
Harry afterwards.

But that's OK now. The show has gone on.

Puzzle Panel', BBC Radio 4. Fridays at 1.30pm. Comments to ındy@puzzlemaster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



ONE OF the great advantages computers have over humans (at least when playing backgammon!) is a complete lack of emotion. The best human players can turn off their emotions and concentrate purely on the game. Computers don't remember that in the previous game they lost an outrageous gammon, nor does that loss affect their future play.

The position above is a good example. No good computer program would forget to redouble here. Despite the fact that black is on the bar against a five-point board, his position is strong. If he enters with a 2. or white enters next roll with a number that crashes his home board, then black's position becomes so strong that white must drop the redouble. Most good players would

analyse this correctly as a

double and a drop. Over the board though, that funny old thing called emotion comes in to play. "What if I stay on the bar, then white enters with a 16?" thinks black. "I'll give it one more roll for safety." He does just that, and next roll finds white dropping his redouble. Instead of winning a possible 8 points (if white mistakenly takes) he has won 2. Emotion has clouded the decision-making process. Save the emotions for St Valentine's Day: they have no place at the backgammon board.

SUNDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

G.4C Teletubbles (8135795). 7.20 Match of the Day (6651153). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (52356). 9.30 Heaven and Earth (20191). 10.30 Porridge (41820). 11.00 Match of Their Day: Rodney Marsh (5849) 11.30 CountryFile (5578) 12.00 On the Record (79191). 1.00 EastEnders (8404207), 2.20 Columbo (5189578), 3.35 Variety **Glub Showbusiness Awards** (2369578). 4.20 4.20 to Paddington Green (4979207). 4.30 Masterchef 1999 (424) 5.00 News; Weather (26.4511). 5.20 Regional News (5265578).

5.25 Songs of Praise. Toyah Willcox introduces a special St Valentine's programme (S) (T) (1839375).

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Compo woos Nora with a motorcycle sidecar (S) (T) (917).

6.00 Antiques Roadshow. From Gamsborough, Lincolnshire, Finds molude a possible Renoir (S) (T)

7.15 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen. Comic Relief business (T) (509443).

T.20 Moliday Guide to Honeymoons, Cape Town, Tunisia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar (S) (T) (197608).

S.CO EastEnders. It's Valentine's Day in Albert Square, which sounds like the cue for some gnet (S) (T) (586004).

S.45 ANTOIRE Love Town. New series about Gretna Green. See Docu-soap of the Day, below (S) (T) (528511).

5.15 News; Weather (1) (132248).

9.30 The Lakes. Bernie discovers she is pregnant by her lover. Father Matthew. Danny tells Emma some home truths about her "saintly" mother (837337)

10:00 Men Behaving Badly. Tony delivers a baby (R) (S) (T) (526191).

10.40 Unfinished Business, Spike takes Amy away for a weekend (205998).

11.10 i'm Alan Partridge (R) (620424). 11.40 The Big End (S) (T) (417172). 12.10 International Cricket 14204955).

1.93 Alex (Megan Simpson 1993 NZ). Sporting drama set in 1959 New Zealand about a young female swimmer's attempt to qualify for the 1960 Rome Olympics (Then Weather) (S) (85757). To 2,30am.

BBC2

8.15 French Experience (7987207). 8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie (9291646), **8.50** Alvin and the Chipmunks (9295462), 9.15 Wayne Manifesto (4718240), 9.40 The Wild House (9318424). 10.05 No Sweat (9820795), 10.30 Grange HB (49462), 11.00 Charte Brown and Snoopy Show (6491191). 11.25 Grange Hill (9260658), 11.50 O Zone (7604789), 12.05 The Simpsons (7437630), 12.30 Robot Wars (65998). 1.00 Around Westminster (48882). 1.30 Sunday Grandstand (90486191). 1.35 Rugby Union (13587288). 1.55 Rugby League (54213240), 3.40 Snooker (4973066). 5.10 Rugby League Draw (5235608).

5.15 Athletics. Live coverage of the BUPA Grand Prix from Birmingham's National Indoor Arena. Commentary from David Coleman, Steve Cram, Paul Dickenson, Brendan Foster, Stuart Storey and Christina Boxer (44831761).

7.30 The Money Programme. Presented by Maya Even (S) (T)

8.00 Snooker. David Vine introduces live coverage of the concluding frames of the Benson and Hedges Masters final at the Wembley Conference Centre. Commentary from Clive Everton, Ray Edmonds, John Virgo and Dennis Taylor (S) (907337).

10.30 A History of Alternative Comedy. With New Labour in power, what future for "alternative" comedy? (S) (T) (40191).

11.00 Gimme Gimme, Linda appears on an episode of The Terry Clinger Show (R) (S) (T) (8172).

11.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (S) (30375). 12.00 Ski Sunday (4004757). 12.50 The Outer Limits (3711486). 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Wurking with Others (22844), 4,00 Languages: Sueños - World Spanish 1-1 (13318). To 5am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (75795).

8.00 Children's ITV: Diggit (2924917). 9.25 Art Attack (4741578), 9.50 The Worst Witch (9325714). 10.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches (6307917), 10.30 Sunday Morning (90375), 11.30 My Favourite Hymns (1646), 12.00 Crosstalk (27240), 12.30 ITN News; Weekend Weether (36773578), 12,40 Jonathan Dimbleby (7011462), 1.30 The Big Match - FA Cup Fifth Round: Manchester United vs Fulhern (34472576), 4.15 Anatomy of Disaster (S) (9746443). 4.50 Blg Screen (3464356). **5.25** London Weekend Tonight (8655714).

5.45 ITN News; Weather (T) (160917).

6.00 Dream Ticket. Melanie Sykes finds unusual London venues in which to get married (135).

6.30 Bill Bryson's Notes from a Small Island. Bryson visits the Yorkshire Dales (S) (T) (337).

7.00 You've Been Framed! Lisa Riley with viewers' home videos (T) (7462).

7.30 Coronation Street. Roy stuns Havley at the Valentine's Day disco (S) (T) (849).

8.00 Heartbeat. Misty-eyed police drama set in a 1960s northern village. A new restaurant, run by two brothers, is the target of sabotage and Greengrass develops an interest in archaeology (S) (T) (8801).

9.00 London's Burning. Firefighter soap. Chris juggles the lovesick Yvonne and wayward Lisa - have Recall's good intentions backfired?

10.00 Tarrant on TV. With scenes from a Russian game show (35269).

10.30 ITN News; Weather (285375).

10.45 Julie Walters is an Alien... in New York. Julie Walters tries her hand at a number of NY jobs - from hotel chambermaid to rookie NBC reporter (S) (T) (970801).

11.30 Faith and Music (27801). 12.00 Film: Saraband for Dead Lovers (348660). 1.45 Box Office America (61592). 2.15 Seaguest 2032 (1848-399). 3.10 World Football (29984)15). 3.40 Jonathan Dimbleby (6259399). 4.25 Cybernet (9467660). To 4.50am.

Channel 4

6.35 Dog City (2954578). 7.00 The Magic Roundabout (3104578). 7.05 Animal Alphabet (6015646), 7.20 Saity's Lighthouse (6003085). 7.45 Bug Alerti (63882), 8.15 Saved by the Bell (2094172), 8.40 City Guys (9031849). 9.10 Catdog (3656-578). 9.45 Planet Pop (1849085). 10.00 The Waltons (59998), 11.00 Hollycaks (2592795). 12:10 Dishes (1675917). 12:40 Dishes (9862172).

115 Fill Can-Can (Walter Lang 1960 US). Frank Sinatra stars in this Cole Porter musical (298191).

3.40 Football Italia (29504191).

6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson leads an archaeological team to investigate why there is a preserved Roman bathhouse in the middle of a Sussex golf course (T) (68085).

7.00 CHOICE Escape to River Cottage. See Documentary of the Day. below (T) (5004).

7.30 Fusion. New series exploring the changing cultural face of 1990s Britain (191).

8.00 Channel 4 Political Awards. Jon Snow and the first-ever televised political awards, including Speechmaker of the Year, Rising Star of the Year, Parliamentary Questioner of the Year and Peer of the Year (6443).

9.00 In Search of Law and Order. Roger Graef presents a series which looks at how the UK can import ideas from America to deal with youth crime. This week he looks at Texas's non-custodial approach (S) (6207).

10.00 CHOIGE The Last Seduction (John Dahl 1994 US). Fabulously twisty neo-noir starring Linda Fiorentino. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (77734462).

12.05 Boyz Unlimited (R) (6919467). 12_35 4 Later: Babylon 5 (R) (2962979). 1.35 4 Later: Dark Skies (R) (S) (T) (6717912), 2.25 Dweebs

2.55 Fill Everybody's Fine (Giuseppe Tomatore 1990 It), Marcello Mastroianni stars as a widower travelling Italy to visit his grown-up children (36341689). To 5am.

Channel 5

6.00 Wildlife SOS (9894511). 6.30 Havakazoo (8550462). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (6878207). 7.30 Milkshake! (3890761). 7.35 Wimzie's House (3023733). 8.00 The Mission (4806207). 8.30 The Revelation Game (4805578). 9.00 Stickin' Around (4889530), 9.30 Mikbar (9817424). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (8541714). 10.30 The Valley Between (4885714), 11.00 The Mag (2826882). 11.30 Singled Out (2827511). 12.00 The Mag (60025004). 1.10 5 News (80564714), 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (89336627). **1.50** Movie Chart Show (2725559). 2.25 Family Affairs Omnibus (50039646).

4.40 FIM Every Time We Say Goodbye (Moshe Mizrahi 1986 Isr). Rare Tom Hanks movie about a US airman in Second World War Jerusalem who falls for a Jewish woman (20967240).

8.30 100 Per Cent Lovers. Valentine's Day edition of the game show without a host (6214337).

7.00 My Ex. A series about marriages which end in divorce (S) (5077356).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (6243849).

8.00 Night Fever. Suggs hosts a lovethemed edition of the karaoke entertainment show, with contestants Philippa Forrester, Sarah Matravers, Tricia Penrose, Sam Kane, Des Coleman, John Altman, Norman Pace and Richard Blackwood (1165578).

9.00 FILM Speechless (Ron Underwood 1994 US). Michael Keaton and Geena Davis are left high and dry by a leaden script in this romantic comedy about speechwriters for opposing political parties who fall for each other during a campaign in New Mexico (S) (T) (99530375).

10.50 Wing and a Prayer. Anna appears on behalf of an advertising executive charged with the rape of an old lady (85047153).

11.55 The Comedy Network (6067004). 12.25 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (4950080), 12-55 Ice Hockey - NHL (S) (95085689). 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (65931399). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (46767221). 5.30 Wildlife SOS (R) (S) (T) (9868196). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

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BBC1 N tretand
As BBC1 LONDON & SE
except: 10:10 Let Me Entertain
You (526191), 10:40 Men Behaving
Badly (205998), 11:40 Men Behaving
Business (620424), 11:40 Im Alan
Partridge (417772), 12:30 The Big
End (6925028), 12:40 International
Cricket (1144080), 1:30 Joins BBC
News 24 (8030405).

BBC1 Wales. As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 2.20 Columbo (52419849).

As LWT except: 12.00 Anglia News Sunday Supplement (27240). 4.15 Greatest Goals: The World Cup from Charlton to Maradona (8637424) 5.35 Anglia News (804849) 6.00 Wildlife Rescue (1935). 2.15 Highlander (1848399). 4.25 Soundtrax (28848486). 4.40 ITV Nightscreen (33621028). 5.00 Coronation Street (70283).

Central As LWT except: 12.00 Lifeline (8445T), 12.05 Central Newsweek (9507153), 12.25 Central News (8462646, 4.15 First Edition (271751), 4.45 Arwolf (2107530), 5.30 Central News (804849), 6.00 Heart of Country (135), 4.25 Jobinder (3394399).

(335). 4.25 Jobfinder (3394399).
HTV Wales
As LWT except: 11.30 My
Favourite Hymns (442251). 11.55
Welsh Agenda (6152530). 12.25
HTV News (8462646). 4.45 ITV
Sport Classics 1970 - Jimmy
Greaves Sports Arena (334751).
4.40 The Front Row (4388340).
5.40 HTV News (876207). 6.00
Soccer Sunday (135). 2.15
Highlander (1848399). 4.25
Soundtrax (28848489). 4.40 ITV
Nightscreen (63621028). 5.00
Coronation Street (70283).

HTV West As HTV Wales except: 11.55 AS TIV Wales except: 11.55
The Sunday Roast (6152530), 4.15
Murder, She Wrote (4981820), 5.10
Getaways (9145627), 6.00 West
Match Plus (135).

Meridian
As LWT except: 12.00 7 Days
(9508882). 12.20 Meridian News
(8454627). 4.15 Greatest Goals
(8637424). 5.35 Meridian News
(804849. 6.00 Monkey Business
(135). 2.15 Highlander (1648399).
4.25 Soundrax (28848486). 4.40
ITV Nightscreen (85621028). 5.00
Freescreen (70283).

Westcountry
as LWT except: 12.00
Weekend Match (27240). 4.15 The
Football Foreign Legion (271191).
4.45 Murder, She Wrote (2107530).
5.30 Westcountry Goals Extra
(852627). 5.35 Westcountry News
(140153). 6.00 The Great Escape
(135). 2.15 Highlander (1348399).
4.25 Soundtrax (23848486). 4.40
ITV Nightscreen (83621028). 5.00
Coronation Street (70283).

Yerkshire As LWT except: 12.00 Trawler (2487135). 12.25 Calendar News (2487135), 12.25 Calendar News (8452646), 4.15 Coronation Street (426849), 5.15 Cartoon Time (2367998), 5.30 Calendar News and Sport (804849), 6.00 Goals on Sunday (135), 12.00 Short Story Chema (31478), 12.30 Cybernet (51009), 1.00 Film: Dil Tera Aashiq (6440370), 4.15 Jobfinder (74405).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 12.00
Newsweek (2487135), 12.25 North
East News and Weather (8462646),
5.30 North East News (804849),
6.00 Cafe Sport (135).

As Channel 4 except: 11.00 Holyoaks (34045191), 12.00 Good Hotycars (340-319), 2230-303375), 1230-80wnd: Omnibws (38697882), 12,46 Fieli (76065714), 12,55 Gol (56509606), 1,40 Talkabout Welsh (2766337). 2.00 Ffermio (23338998). 2.35 Brookside (93975004). 4.00 Brokside (93975004). 4.00 Norland Nannies (81990820). 4.30 Pam F Duw? (81998004). 5.00 Newyddion (76702434). 5.05 Ewropa (49464849). 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (97246744). 7.30 Dechrau Caru Dechrau Canmol (81997733). 8.00 Botwm 4 (64406207). 8.30 Shan Cothi (64485714). 9.00 Taicen Caled (15736375). 10.05 Newyddion (77259288). 10.20 Film: Last Seduction (75384733) Film: Last Seduction (75384733). 12.25 The Phil (24814660). 1.25 Channel 4 Political Awards (13394689). 2.25 Close.

DOCU-SOAP OF THE DAY

LOVE TOWN (8.45pm BBC1, right) With 4.000 couples making the trip every year to Gretna Green, the "marriage capital of Britain", the Scottish town is a rich munting ground for a docu-soap team woking for human interest stories. This six parter begins with three couples tenly one of whom is eloping), and introduces us to resident character, town blacksmith Jim Jackson.

Cadio 1 July 1980Ho SM 1 G.SD Mich Greening 1000 Mark Gooders 5/301 Features Show

130 Lea larson 3.00 10 Peps 4.00 10 Oheal Ut Top 40

1130 Figlio I Live Lingui Ha 10.00 Trevor 12.00 Emma B. 420 • 6.30 Scott Mas

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rinuse of Conscion in montas Bower's latest

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1.00 Sendey Sup-1.00 Decimend 1.00 By Pep-



RADIO

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

ESCAPE TO RIVER COTTAGE (7pm C4, ngm Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, the sort of bloke who finds his dinner in a nearby hedgerow, goes the whole hog (and rears one, too) when he attempts to live entirely off the land. The terrain in question belongs to a picturesque corner of Dorset - a tiny gamekeeper's cottage - where he begins by planting his future vegetables.



Sky Premier
6.00 Ferrmes Fatales
(5074, 7.00 Never Too
Late (1996) (34394743).
8.45 Steel Magnolias
(1989) (458398). 10.45 First
Kid (1989) (458398). 10.45 First
Kid (1989) (458714). 3.00
Steel Magnolias (1989)
(54240). 5.00 First Kid
(1996) (88375). 2.00 The
Boy from Mercury (1998)
(8873). 9.00 Firm Night
(27388). 9.30 Firm Night
(27388). 9.30 Firm Night
(27388). 9.30 Firm Sight
(1998) (193356).
1.25 The Juror (1998)
(937883). 3.25 • 6.00 Exit
in Red (1998) (78787592).
Sky MovieMax

FILM OF THE DAY

THE LAST SEDUCTION (10pm C4, right) Actually made for TV - before going theatrical (in much the same way as Stephen Frears's My Beautiful Laundrette) - John Dahl's beautifully spare neo-film noir from 1994 has a terrific femme fatale in Linda Fiorentino. She's stolen some ill-gotten gains from husband Bill Pullman and is heading for the sticks.



palace preparing them-selves for a forthcoming war Their little household is changed for ever with the arrival of a perficious couner Starring Juliet Stevenson, Nicholas Le Prevost, Jennie Stoller Victoria Wicks, David Bradley, loan Meredith and Patience Tominson Directed by Richard Wortley 10.25 Mita Meyerson.

The American harpsi-chordest plays a suite of dances and characteristi races by the 18th-century Buphly. **11.00** World Music, Barb Jungr concludes a two-part introduction to the vocal music of fran with a

no Story **4.00 As** o Book By **4.30 S**pg Samaban Simple **5.0**6 San Acres **7.00 Hugh** Survey of transan popular music through the 20th 11.30 Ulster Orchestra. 19.99 Majorim Lavcock. 1000 The David Jacobs Total tion 12.00 Lynn Taregns, 3.00 - 4.00 12.05 A Singing Mans 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Nraht. Radio 4 924-946MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefin 6.05 Something Under-£.00 cruminar's Sonday 6.35 On Your Farm. 1920 Total of the Week 6.57 Weather. 12.15 Music Mallers. 1.70 The Radio S 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers 17799 Concert. A religion (ast Novem-730 Sunday 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. in 1.5 too Warmore Hall. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. emotion by the Takads. Control and pranst 8.45 Letter from Amen-

increase Haellings CAD Scott of the Age CACC 100 Great Singers 9.00 NEWS; Broadcast ing House. 10.00 The Archers. 445 Certainens 11.15 Desert Island Discs. 12.00 NEWS: Tales from 5.45 Sunday Feature: restures from a the Back of Beyond. 12.30 Just a Minute. 9.00 Private Passions 700 Chor Works Brian 12.58 Weaths circosces a perfor-1.00 The World This nance di Rechadolow s 2.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Teams concepted by

Question Time 2.30 A Stitch in Time.

3.00 NEWS: The Classic

Serial: Joseph Andrews. 4.00 NEWS: Writers

4.30 Fine Lines. 5.00 NEWS: File on 4. 5.40 Me, Mysell Ow!. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. man sit in a ruined 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Pick of the Week. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7:15 Do the Right Thing. senes. Jane Thynne and guests dissect human behavious using wit and

ws.oom.

8.00 NEWS: Fat Chance.
By Jenny McDade. 'Weigh
In with Wendy'. A high-lat
britersweet comedy
senes for those who
believe that there is a thin
person melde them ben. person inside them begperson inside them beg-ging to get out. Join Wendy Bottomley and the members of her stimming club. With Gareth Corke, Janne Duvitski and Michael Troughton (1.5). 8.30 Law in Action, Marcel Berlins investigates how the law works and where it goes wrong. 9.00 NEWS: Dislodging the Deed. Are our oran yards sacred? Ruth Achardson investigates the attitudes of the and archaeologists to the 9.30 in Business. Its Your Line, Mobile phone use is exploding and of enom hours is each come. Peter Day explores a new obsession. 10.00 NEWS: The West-master Hour, Andrew Rawnsley presents the political headlines of the next week, live from West minster including 1045 Now That History Hesnit Ended Four talks by political writer and philosopher John Gray about the end of the 20th century and the world we live in now. 1: Capitalisms Pyrmic Victory'. 11.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve. Libby Purves

with the guide to the world of learning, with practical advice, features and your views 11.30 Something Under stood. 12.00 News.

12.15 Diaries of Today. 12.30 The Late Story: The Mermaydes Tale. 12.48 Shoping Forecas 100 As World Service. 5,30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Radio 4 LW (198kHz) **12.00 - 12.04** News

Headines; Shipping Fore-cast 8.00 - 10.00 Open University. Radio 5 Live 6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Neil. 9.00 SportsWeek 10.00 Hayes on Sunday. 12.00 Ed Hall Investi-

gates. 12.30 The Media Show 1.00 Sunday Sport. 7.30 Time of My Life. John Mustay taks to Ann Packer, who relives her 1964 Olympic gold medal win in Tokyo. 8.00 News Extra. Susan Bookbinder with the news and business round-up. 8.30 Brief Lives. 5 Lives obitivary column.

9.00 Dallyn Worldwide.

Richard Dallyn with the stories that matter from around the world. 9.30 Out This Week. The

week's lesbian and gay 10.00 Late Night Currie. weekends talking points including a topical discus-sion. Phone 0500 909693. Plus a full round-up of the day's sport at 10.30, and the late news at 1100. 100 Up Ali Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Reports.

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas, 9.00 Classic Romance, 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Mellor. 2.00 Alan Mann. 4.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Countdown Too Ten. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 100 Evening Concert, 3.00

6.00 Mark Griffiths. Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1280kHz MW 058MHz FM) 6.00 Mark Forrest 10.00 Jonathan Ross 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Janey Lee Grace. 7,30 Harriet Scott / AM from 645 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt 1.00 Steve Power, 4.30 6.30 Richard Allen.

World Service Radio (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Feature). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Pick of the World. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Global Business. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

Talk Radio 6.00 Paul Ross, 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens. 12.00 Russell Grant 3.00 Nicky Home's Access All Year, 6.00 Let's Talk Cornedy with Don McLeary and Saneev Cohi. 8.00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving. 10.00 James Whale 1.00 . 6.00 Mike Dickin.



SATELLITE & CABLE

Sightings (4015). 2.00 - 7.00 Long Play (9859979).

Sky Sports 1 7.00 Glette World Sport

(833) (8720047).

Discovery Charmel 4.00 'Rest Fights (8530004) 5.00 Flightline (4508373). 5.30 Coltranels Planes and Automobiles (3433):53), 6.00 Wolves at Our Door (4214040). 7.00 The Supernatural (458957), 7.30 Creatures Fantastic (3443530), 8.00 The Unexplained (6142259). Unexplained (6142269). 9.00 Lost Treasures of the

in Red (1996) (78874592).

Sky Movie-Max
6.00 Weekend Reunion
(1990) (24065). 8.00 Battle
for the Planet of the Apes
(1973) (77820). 10.00 The
Big Game (1995) (79612).
12.00 Weekend Reunion
(1990) (67443). 2.00 Battle
for the Planet of the Apes
(1973) (37153). 4.00 The
Big Game (1995) (5299).
6.00 A Very Brady Sequel
(1996) (57977). 8.00 Magic
(1982). 8.30 Fetal Affair
(1997) (24066). 10.00 True 75048251 2.00 Close. Sky One 6.00 Hour of Power (67004). 7.00 'Burno in the Night (96789). 7.30 Street Sharks (66066). 8.00 Orson and Ofiva (71085). 8.30 Extrooed Teerage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (70356). 9.00 'The Storrenos (65808). 9.20 (582). 8.30 Fatal Aftair (582). 8.30 Fatal Aftair (593) (2066). 10,00 True Romance (1993) (1098). 12.00 Fatal Attraction (1987) (18009). 2.00 I Love You to Death (1990) (775912). 3.40 Sealed with a Kiss (1996) (644793). 5.15 - 7.00 The Fallen Sparrow (1943) (18203660). Simpsons (61608) 9.30 Gartield and Friends (98240) 10.00 Dream Feam (1578) 11.00 World Wresting Federation Superstars (5714) 12.00 King E. Little Ingred Kung Fu - the Legend Continues (1191). 1.00 The New Adventures of

Sky Cinema 11.00 310 To Yuma* (1957) (2401482). 12.30 Evil of Frankenstein (1964) (909472). 2.00 The | S094172| 2.00 Tre | Conqueror (1955) (1935733) | 4.00 The Nutry Professor (1963) (7500849) | 6.00 The Rechead and the Cowboy (1951) (1922299) | 8.00 Madigan (1968) (1927714) | 10.00 The Laughing Policemen (1974) | (5091289) | 11.55 Next Stop, Greenwich Village (1975) (7232949) | 1.50 The Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox (1976) (8202405) | 3.35 | 310 Turna's (1957) | (91726974) | 5.05 Close | Films Four The New Adventures of Superman (9751); 2.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (53240). 3.00 VIP (28559; 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (97069; 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (3527); 6.00 The Simpsons (4269; 6.30 The Simpsons (4269; 6.30 The Simpsons (8849); 7.00 Xing of the Hill (1069; 7.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (7733); 8.00 Earth; Final Conflict (63573); 9.00 Ultraviolet (43714); 10.00 Odania (637), 300 Ultraviolal (437), 10,00 Naked in Westminster (4680), 11,00 South Park (47545), 11,30 Forever Knight (5282), 12,30 Tales from the Crypt (91641), 1,00 FilmFour 6.00 A Room with a View

(1985) (8315066), 8.00 Before Surrise (1995) (8510511), 10.00 Beautiful Thing (1996), (10680), 11.30 Walking and Talking (1996), 469019), 12.55 Carlas Song (1996), (9667270), 2.55 Damage (1992), (9050399), 4.45 6.00 Zero De Conduite* (1933), (3720047).

9.00 Lost reasures of the Yangtze Valley (6155733). 10.00 Three Gorges - The Biogest Dam In the World (615820). 11.00 Hoover Dam (9630356). 12.00 Discover Magazine (6161319). 1.00 Justice Files (7510425). 2.00 Chees

Saling (4851714), 11,30 Ath-letics - Road Race of the 1805 - Hoad Race of the Month (485443), 12,06 Rugby Linion Update (2886559), 1,30 Motor Racing (5679424), 3,30 FA Cup Newcastle v Blackburn (1394066), 6,30 Euro Tour Golf (1162004), 9,00 Ford Golf USA \$889820), 11.30 FA Cup Special (3623930), 1.00 Scottish Football (3196115), 2.00 Spanish Football (1189950), 4.00 Close. (18959), 4,00 (Jose.

Sky Sports 3
7,30 Futures in Sport (90765559), 8,00 Soccer
Extra (9177629), 11,00 Goals on Sunday (14102563), 1,00 Squash (87963801), 2,00 International Cricket (7352268), 4,30 Athletics Fload Race of the Month (87834066), 5,00 Motor Racing (33343191), 9,00 International Cricket

International Cricket (97247725), 11.30 Athletics - Road Race of the Month (29938086), 12.00 Close. Eurosport 7.30 Raly (20424) 8.00 Bobsleigh (18545) 9.00 Alpina Sking (24601) 10.00 Biathlon (74530), 11.30 Bobsleigh (21646), 12.30 Luge (77220), 1.30 Biathlon (1849), 2.30

Cycling (66578), 3.30 Biethion (16424), 4.30 Bob-sleigh (86714), 5.30 Alpine Sking (8828), 6.30 Tennis (95801), 8.00 Car on Ica (7882), 8.30 Alpine Sking (10240), 9.30 Fally (76627), 10.00 Sportscentre (898917), 10.35 Athletics (490559), 11.45 Luge (332801), 12.30 Closs, IMK Gold 7.00 Galette World Sport Special (56849), 7.30 World Windsurfing (35356), 8.00 Budweiser Baskerbal (66894), 10.00 Euro Tour Golf (210608), 1.00 Golf (613646), 4.00 Triathlon; 1998 World Cup (54356), 5.00 The Snow Show (6530), 5.30 Scottish Foothell (33550), 8.30 UK Gold 7.00 Angels (9623066). 7.30 Middlemarch (8530): 5.30 Scottish Football (331530): 8.30 Spanish Football (52004): 10.30 Rugby League (28172): 12.00 The Snow Snow (87950): 12.30 Gälette World Sport Special (40831): 1.00 World Wrasting Federation - In Your House (1046863): 4.00 Close. 7.00 Anges (962306), 7.30 Middlemarch (7322085), 8.30 Dr Who and the Genesis of the Daleks (53168443), 7110 Daleks (53168443), 7110 Daleks (53168443), 7110 Time (1980) (6940527), 3.00 The Bil Omnibus (86715820), 5.20 Keeping Up Appearances (199578), 6.00 Sky Sports 2 7.00 Aerobics (4295199). 7.30 International Cricket (6134559). 11.00 Extreme Salmo (435/714). 11.30 Ar

6.00 Bally/issangel (60319424).
7.05 The Good Life (309191). 7.45 To the (309191). 7.45 To the Manor Born (7215733).
8.25 Cnly Fools and Horsee (5793340). 9.05 Black-Adder II (8402530).
9.45 Black Adder the Third (2685424). 10.25 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (29684424). 11.30 Winstewer Happened to the Likely Lader? (3272356).
12.10 Ruby Wax Meets. Bette Midler and Liza Minnelf (1786486). 12.50 Pride and Prejudice (4902979). 1.50 Minder (33345231). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (6398912). Shopping (6398912).

Shopping (6398912).
Living
6.00 Tiny and Crew
(3773091), 6.20 Johnson
and Friends (8364762),
6.30 Greedyssums and
the Gang (12735849), 6.45
Philosert the Frog (84174375),
6.50 Polka Dot Shortical
Parenting (684240), 7.05
Professor Bubble (8455449),
7.30 Barney and Priends
(3791606), 7.55 Practical
Parenting (4145356), 8.00
Callou (1280462), 8.25 Babalcos (1860153), 8.30 Callou (8948269), 8.35 Tiny
and Crew (6204376), 8.50
Practical Parenting
(5281434), 9.30 Living

Omnibus (4916153). 3.00 Films: Swing Time* (1936) (501761). 5.00 Films: Strictly Balmoom (1992) (67096578). 6.50 Barry Marillow: Live by Request (5799430). 8.00 Ally McBeal (1914240). 9.00 Jerry Springer (1924627). 11.00 Michael Cole (7887608), **12,00** Close

9.00 Gone with the Wind (1939) (42676191), 1.00 Two Loves (1961) (40326028), 3.00 Shoot the Moon (1982) (97830298). **5.00**

Cose.

Paramount

Comedy Channel

7.00 Jerny (1608), 7.30

Grace under Fre (737-9)

8.00 Eten (739-9), 8.30

Newsradio (2191), 9.00

Cheers (7882), 9.30

Cheers (72801), 10.00 Taxl

(79153), 11.00 Drassing for

Breakdest (53627), 11.30

Larry Sanders (16117),

12.00 Duckman (85592),

12.30 We Know Where

You Live (48573), 1.00 You Live (48573). **1.00** Comedy Store (28931). **1.30** Club Class (65950) 2.00 Dr Katz (28080), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (4715), 3.00 Nightstand (15487), 3.30 Abbott & Costello (38467), 4.00 Close.

Granada Pius 6.00 Jason King (682/820), 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (8845269), 7.30 Nearest and Dearest (8857004), 8.00 Watching (882/1704), 8.30 Unamus and Greg (907/659), 9.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (55/0977), 10.00 Peum of the Saint (8863288), 11.00 Return of 8853288). 11.00 Return of Resaura (8853288). 11.00 Return of Sheriock Holmas (8833424). 12.00 The Professionals (5524022). 1.00 Nearest and Dearest (8837240). 1.30 Please, Siri (124268). 2.00 Potot (8358733). 3.00 Reseaura

(8358733), 3.00 Bonanza (8358733), 3.00 Bonanza (4579849), 4.00 The High Chaparal (4558356), 5.00 Chaparal (4558356), 5.00 Chaparal (456836), 5.00 Cha

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN 'THE INFORMATION'

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940 opt. 4.40 10 15 t ide t 3.50 Ø5*21. 12-30

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Omnibus (7291207), 7.30

The Love Boat (705733).
The Love Boat (705733).
9.00 The Professionals (6054379). 10.00 The Odd Couple (4021153). 10.30 Hoganis Heroes (6726761).
11.00 Men & Motors (7473085). 2.00 Closs (7473085). 2.00 Closs (7473085), 2.00 Close,

THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 13 February 1999

RADIO 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM)

6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian

Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Sat-

urday Show. 100 The Smith Lec-

tures. 1.30 The Newly Discovered

Casebook of Sherlock Holmes, 2.00

Alan Freeman, 3.30 Johnnie Walker.

5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 Read-

cert. 9.00 Suzi Quatro: Rockin' with

Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dut-

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-

cert. Stephanie Hughes introduces

e sixth of 12 recitals by leading piacists. This week, Pascal Roge plays

a stylish French programme. Faure:

Satie: Gnossiennes (Set 1). Poulenc: Suite 'Les soirces de Nazelles'. De-

4.00 The Secrets of Orchestration.

6.30 Opera on 3. Placido Domingo

sings the title role in Meyerbeer's

grand opera set in the Low Coun-

mnkeeper who, because he bears

an uncanny resemblance to a por-

trait of the biblical King David, is en-

crowned emperor in Munster Cathe-

dral. But the tragic personal conse-

quences persuade him to abandon

the Anabaptist cause in a spectacu-

lar fashion. With a cast including

Placido Domingo, tenor (Jean de

Leyden) and Agnes Baltsa, mezzo

(Fides, Jean's mother). Vienna State

Opera Chorus and Orchestra/Mar-

6.00 Little Girls in Pretty Boxes (1997)

(63394) 8.00 Casper: a Spirited

terues (9433416). 2.15 UK Top Ten

19226). 3.00 Laura Lansing Slept Here (18565), 5.00 James and the Giant

each (1996) (21400). 7.00 Adventures of

mocchio (1995) (71348). 9.00 Boys 996) (52394). 10.30 Blue Velvet (1986)

ompassion! (1997) (58362559). 3.05

ose Cannons (1990) (526337). 4.40 -

1.00 Africa Screams (1949) (2507690).

00 The Blue Dahlia (1946) (1031961).

press (1953) (1950042). 10.00 Tony

(nsom (1954) (2742313). **1.15** moulsion (1959) (1811153), 3.00

vme (1967) (8901955). 11.50 World for

nga Din (1939) (3852530), 5.25 Close

00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1961)

00 French Kiss (1995) (8350139). 10.00

27394) 7.30 Waiting for Go (1460936

e Shining (1980) (4919110). 12.00 An-

is and insects (1995) (4388085). **1.55** e Vanishing (1988) (1677801). **3.35** •

30 Battle for the Skies (6636232), 5.00 Century of Warlare (451110), 6.00 A

ntury of Wartare (6414428). 7.00 Birth 3 Jet Fighter (6262077). 8.00 Lightning

75597), 9.00 Extreme Rides (8251961).

.00 Forensic Detectives (6261348).

COVERY CHANNEL

2.30 The Dark Mirror (1946) (9027400).

00 Gunga Din (1939) (7666077). 6.00 Hillighters (1969) (1955597). 8.00 Pony

0090226), 12.35 Lovel Valour!

.00 Action Heroes (5739646).

KY CINEMA

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ce"o Viotti.

SKY PREMIER

tries in 1530. The prophet is an

listed by the Anabaptists and

Noctume in E flat minor, Op 33 No 1

ing Music. 8.00 M People in Con-

Suzi Q. 10.00 Bob Harris, 1.00

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.

(90.2-924MHz FM)

12.00 Private Passions.

bussy: Pour le piano.(R)

3.00 Young Artists' Forum.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

2.00 Best of 3.

6.00 Jazz Century.

9.00 CD Review.

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SATURDAY RADIO

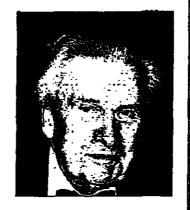
PICK OF THE DAY

7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles. 1.00 Lisa l'Anson. 3.00 Radio 1's R 'וז' B Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Rampling - Love-IN BEHIND THE IRON HORSE years old. It already has its above Dance Party. 9.00 Westod - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix: Live in Ireland. United States, settle the West of "Simon Says". 4.00 - 6.30 Annie Nightingale. and wreak havoc on the lives RADIO 2 of native Americans. (88-90.2MHz FM)

Spires (9.35pm R3) takes us, part series on forgotten English to new territory - the virtual community of Alphaworld, "the size of California" but only three

(2.30pm R4), Ludovic Kennedy own newspaper - Richard Coles (right) looks at the way the meets its editor, who has given railroads helped to unify the himself the unpromising avatar

Coles pops up again later for the much quainter Airs of Between the Ears - Virtual England (11pm R4), a new fourpopular music, which begins with the sounds of Dickens' London. DOMINIC CAVENDISH



9.35 Between the Ears. 'Virtual Spires'. The first of six newly commissioned experiments in creative radio. Richard Coles trawls the World 5.57 Weather. Wide Web in search of its new empires. Virtual communities the size of California, with no gravity, few laws, and no restrictions on how you look. What sort of society develops when reality and imagination collide? And

who rules the new city-states of cyberspace? See Pick of the Day. 10.15 Gould Trio. Fuchs: Pieno Trio in C. Op 22. Brahms: Piano Trio No 1 in B, Op & (R) 11.30 Jazz on 3. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (924-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing 6.05 Sports Desk. 640 Open Country. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 Today. 9.00 Home Truths. 10.00 NEWS; Loose Ends. 11.00 NEWS; The Food Pro-

gramme. 11.30 From Our Own Correspon-12.00 NEWS; Money Box. 12.30 The Ghost of Number Ten. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.15 Any Questions?.

2.00 NEWS; Any Answers? 0870 010 0444. 2.30 Behind the Iron Horse, See Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS; The Saturday Play: And Counting. 4.00 NEWS; Weekend Woman's Hour.

5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 7.00 NEWS; Saturday Review. 7.45 Digging for Victory. Beneath the land on which they are trying to build a lasting peace, Israel and Palestine are locked in war. The battleground is the region's ancient history and the soldiers are archaeologists buildozing evidence that does not support their political

cause. Writer William Dalrymole reports on war amongst the ruins in 8.00 NEWS; The Archive Hour: Watching the Workers. The Mass Ob-

servation movement of the 1930s was an ambitious attempt to bring the methods of anthropology to bear on aspects of British society. The resuits were remarkable and sometimes hilarious - a collision of classes, cultures and regions. Presented by Fred Inglis. 9.00 NEWS; The Classic Serial:

Joseph Andrews. Henry Fielding's comic masterpiece is a riotous journey through the morals and manners of high and low society. 1: Joseph's special talents are spotted by Lady Booby, who employs him as her footman, forcing him to leave behind his country sweetheart and find his fortune in London, With Norman Rodway and Matthew Dunster. Dramatised by Dominic Power, Director Michael Fox. 10.00 News and Weather.

10.15 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, lan Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news. **#LOO** NEWS; Airs of England. In the first of a four-part series, Richard Coles explores the diverse sounds of Victorian English music. Dickens and the Marrowbone'. This week he talks to Tim Healey who has researched and re-created the songs of street and parlour that litter the works of Dickens and brought cacophony to 19th-century London. See Pick of the Day. 1L30 Parkes and Gardens. (R)

12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: The Way Home. (R) 12.30 The Late Story: This Thing of Darkness. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. RADIO 4 LW (196kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. **TLOO** Move It.

11.30 You're Not Singing Any More. 12.00 Sportscall **1.00** Sport on 5. 6.06 Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dallyn UK. 9.00 The Treatment.

10.00 World Championship Boxing. Commentary from Newcastle of four world title fights, including Joe Calza-ghe of Wales defending his WBO super middleweight title against Robin Reid, WBC champion Richie Woodhall against Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy, and a WBO heavyweight clash between Herbie Hide versus Orlin Norris of the US.

1.00 - 6.00 Up All Night. CLASSIC FM (100.0-1019MHz FM)

وكذامن الأهل

6.00 Sarah Lucas, 8.00 Count-down. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 - 2.01 Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 3 in E flat. Werner Haas, National Orchestra of Monte Carlo/Ellahu Inbal. Elgar: Symphony No 3. BBC SO/Andrew Davis. Haydn; String Quartet in D minor, Op 103. Franz Schubert Quartet, Pucinni, Concert Fantasy on Turandot, Vanessa Mae (violin), LPO/Viktor Fedotov, Puccini; Nessun Dorma (Turandot). Ben Heppner (tenor), Munich RSO/Roberto Abbado. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen, 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams, 2.00 Rock and Roll Football. 5.30 Wheels of Steel. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace, 2.00 -6.00 Steve Power.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Best on Record. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Agenda. 3.00 The World To-day. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Review, 3,45 Letter from America. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 - 6.00 Women Who Dared to Speak.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Danny Baker's Morning Edition. 12.00 It's Round and White - with Torn Watt. 2.00 The ScortZone - Soccer Scecial. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

(7632665). 7.55 Practical Parenting

(4179684), 8.00 Polika Dot Shorts

(1204042). 8.10 Tiny and Crew '98

(1605226). 8.15 Happy Birthday (1209597) 8.25 Babaloos (1693481). 8.30 Califou

(8971597). 8-35 Tiny and Crew (5300503).

8.50 Practical Parenting (7568394), 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (8053145), 9.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (7651665), 10.10

Maury Povich (5519400). 11.00 Living Issues (9906481). 11.30 The Roseame

Show - Highlights (9907110). 12.00

Entertainment Now! (5995481), **12.3**0

Films A Letter To Three Wives (1985)

Sex Files (7810935). 12.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT

COMEDY CHANNEL

(1953139). 8.00 Rescue 911 (7654232)

LA Law Omnibus (4949481). 3.00 Film:

Tender is the Night (1962) (5618597). **6.00**

8.30 Beyond Bellef (7577139), 9.00 Jerry

9.00 Wild Rovers (1971) (20798495). 11.30

Blow-Up (1966) (68665503) 1.30 Ada (1961) (41740356) 3.30 Escape from East Berlin (1962) (16961996) 5.00 Close.

7.00 Jenny (1077). 7.30 Grace under Fire

(446), 8.00 Ellen (4597), 8.30 Newsradio (9232), 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey

(86329). 9.30 Whose Line is it Anywa (57752). 10.00 Frasier (30597). 10.30

Cheers (12145). 11.00 Seinfeld (81874).

11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (86752). **12.00** Duckman (17511). **12.30** We Know

Where You Live (96530), 1,00 Cornedy

Store (83288), 1.30 Ctub Class (87199).

(13996), 3.00 Nightstand (63424), 3.30 Abbott & Costello (37578), 4.00 Close.

10.00 The Odd Couple (9070011). 10.30

Hogan's Heroes (5972049), #LOO Grana-

North East News and Weather (5263481).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 5.05
Newyddion (76734023), 5.10 Y Clwb
Rygbi (52775936), 7.45 Newyddion a
Chwaraeon (98221874), 8.00 Mardi Gras
(88218049), 9.00 O Flaen Dy Lygaid
(47682905), 19.00 Film: A Bridge Too
Far An allester cest recreates the fateful

Far. An all-star cast recreates the fateful World War II battle for Arnhem. The First Airborne Division parachutes into

Operation Market Garden, an ambitious

conspire to threaten the whole operation

Based on the book by Cornelius Ryan. With Dirk Bogarde, James Caan, Michael Caine, Sean Connery, Edward Fox, Laurence Officer. (28829058). 1.15 4 Later:

Affed plan to capture six Dutch bridges

and cut off the Germans, but events

Exploitica - Hollywood Expose (50964240), 1.45 4 Later: Valentoons (59161375), 2.20 4 Later: Women in

occupied Holland in 1944 as part of

5.10 Full Time (2391955).

2.00 Dr Katz (27191). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs

Springer Double Bill (1957955), 11.00 The

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

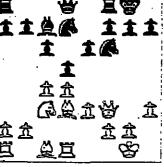
ONE OF the questions which people are always asking is how much and how far ahead a grandmaster can see. Of course, the answer is that depth of calculation depends completely on the position, whereas breadth of vision varies between "quite a lot" down to "not nearly enough", with the odd traumatic blunder thrown in.

Today's game was a damp squib because I got it wrong. But it might serve to go some way towards answering these questions.

In the opening, if 5 exd5 Black must interpose Bxf3! 6 Qxf3 (6 gxf3!? is possible) cxd5 and if 7 Qb3 Qd7 is fine: but not 5 ...cxd5? 6 Qb3 Qd7? 7 Ne5!. So I tried 5 h3!? to force 5 ... Bxf3 without exchanging on d5.

The critical position came in the diagram, where I thought for nearly half an hour before playing a bad move! I wanted to play 11 e4 but then e5! exploits the queen on f3 and bishop on d3 by playing for ... Ne5. I analysed 12 exd5 exd4 13 Ne4 cxd5 14 cxd5? (in fact 14 Nxf6+! Nxf6 15.Bg5! is better) Nxd5 which seemed to win a pawn, for unfortunately if 15 Ng5 N5f6 16 Nxh7? Nxh7 17 Bxh7+ Kxh7 18 Rxd4 Qe7! tin fact there are several other ways too: exploits White's weakened back rank. The line continues 19 Qd3+ which I hadn't in fact seen is en route to f1 but after 19 ...Kg8 20 Rxd7 Qe1+21 Qf1 Bh2+! does the trick. My next idea was 11 exd5 exd5 12 e4 dxe4 13 Nxe4 Nxe4 14 Bxe4 (if 14

Qxe4 Nf6 15 Qh4 h6 16 Bxh6 gxh6 17 Qxh6 yields a draw but no more.) A) But first, I didn't think I had very much even after 14 ...Nf6 15 Bg5 Qd6 (Re8 is in fact better) 16 Bxf6 Qxf6 17 Qxf6 gxf6 18 d5.



B) And I didn't like 14 ... Re3 13 dő Qe7 16 dxc6 Neő! wben I again leared for my back rank. In fact, further thought shows that White can play 17 Be3! Qxe4 18 Bxc5 Qxf3 19 gxf3 bxe6 which is probably about equal - both sides have lousy pawns. But if 17 exb7." Rabs 18 Bd3 (White has to try 18 Bxh7 + Kxh7 19 Be3) I do indeed get hit by 18

...Nxd3! 19 Qxd3 Rbd3! which wins So I played 11 Bf1"! to prepare est-But 12 e4"! was already too late and Komliakov could have tried 14 ... 519 while at the end 15 ... Nf6 16 QE Bxf4 17 Qxf4 already felt a touch better for Black, since the d pawn needs defending.

> White: Jon Speelman Black: Victor Komliakov Calcutta 1999 (Round 3: Queen's Gambit Slav

1 Nf3 d5 to Rd1 Nbd7 esce diagram 2 c4 c6 3 e3 Nf6 11 Bû"' Oct 4 Nc3 Bg4 12 e4"! dxe4 5 h3!? Bxf. 13 Nxe4 Nxe4 6 Qx/3 ୯6 14 Qxe4 Rad8 7 d4 Bd6 12 B(1 8 Bd3 0-0 1_{12} , 1_{12} 9 0-0 Bc7

Game all: dealer East

North

BRIDGE

SPADES WERE a popular choice of trump suit on this deal from a match of many years ago. At my table, playing a long out-dated system, East felt compelled to open One Spade.

This set me, as South, something of a problem, which I attempted to solve by passing. Nobody else took any action either and, after my lead of ♠ K, declarer ended with only three tricks and the loss of 400 points. Nowadays, I am sure that many Wests might dredge up a 1 no-trumps response to One Spade, hoping for the best. At the other table East, rather

more sensibly, opened One Heart and South decided to overcall with of success he had to find the misstrumps but East won the second touching trumps. round and continued forcing with hearts. It was all over now, and declarer was bound to lose four tricks and 100 points.

Well, our team had gained handsomely on the deal, but it could quite easily have gone the duly comes to his 10 tricks. other way. How should the declarcontract? To have had any chance one's mind...

₱108 9J642 6K93 **₱10762** West East **4**6 **◆**A532 C8753 TAKQ 10 0108 0014 **◆**K38543 **♣**Q9 South **◆KQJ974** QA7652 **♣**A

Four Spades. All passed (East ing diamonds divided 3-2. It would quite hopefully) and West led a have cost him nothing to cash his heart. Declarer ruffed the heart two top winners in the suit and continuation and started on then concede a diamond before Now, if East continues his forc-

ing defence, South can ruff his remaining diamonds with dummy's \$\phi\$ 10 8. If the defenders over-ruff or lead trumps at any stage, South is again in control and

It is odd, is it not, how these er in Four Spades have tackled his triumphs of yesteryear stick in

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

Beginning (1997) (58955). 10.00 Beart (1997) (59771). **12.00 Places in the Heart** HAVING CAUSED something of a (1984) (44706). 2.00 Little Girls in Pretty Boxes (1997) (83752), 4.00 Casper: a Spirited Beginning (1997) (9690). 6.00 Rean (1997) (39139). 7.30 p:review (3936) 8.00 The Arrival (1996) (71961). 10.00 The Devil's Own (1997) (774394). See Pick of the Day. 11.50 Mother (1996) (428023). 1.35 Last Dance (1996) (689424), 3.20 late Alan J Pakula's muddled 6.00 Badlands (1973) (74196559). SKY MOVIEMAX IRA arms-dealer who lodges 7.00 Femmes Fatales (88684), 7.30 Action Heroes (5724058), 8.45 UK Top Ten 6704856) 9.00 The Adventures of Anocchio (1995) (43077). 11.00 James and the Giant Peach (1996) (78145), 1.00 remmes Fatales (87955). 1.30 Action

SKY ONE

After quite a few years spent storm when it was released in drifting along in neutral, Michael the cinema for romanticising Caine has hit top gear with his the IRA. The Devil's Own acclaimed performance as the (10pm Sky Premier) receives its sleazy agent, Ray Say, in Little satellite premiere tonight. The Voice. Many think it an outrage that this performance has been film has Brad Pitt miscast as an overlooked in this year's Oscar nominations. The career of one with an unwitting New York cop of our most perennially popular (Harrison Ford, right) during a and talented screen actors is mission to buy missiles. When traced in tonight's Biography the policeman uncovers the (7pm History Channel). JAMES RAMPTON



plan, he face an ethical dilemma. 11.00 A Century of Warfare (9663684). 12.00 A Century of Warfare (6194646). 1.00 Weapons of War (7537153). 2.00

7.00 Bump in the Night (66416). 7.30 **SKY SPORTS 2** Street Sharks (72023) 8.00 Adventures of Sinbad (31954) 9.00 The Simpsons (10413) 9.30 Garfield and Friends 6.00 Hold the Back Page (2985874), 7.00 Aerobics (5396667), 7.30 Racing News (53597). **10.00** The Best of the Chris Evans Show (74435). **11.00** World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (81771). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (49348). 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (52868), 2.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (8459), 2.30 America's Dumbest Criminals (5961), 3.00

Guity! (54706). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (60313). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (3416). **6.00** Xena: Warrior Princess (38232), 7.00 VIP (75787), 8.00 JAG (84435), 9.00 Film: Sky One Special Feature: Wall Street (1987) (468787). 1L30 Beat the Crusher (50067). 12.30 Showbiz Weekly (63288). 1.00 The Big Easy (81882). 2.00 Fire (74714). 3.00 - 6.00 Long Play (5624559). SKY SPORTS 1

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (89955). 8.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (38199). 8.30 Racing News (20110). 9.00 Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (17690). 9.30 Gillette World Sport Special (48058), 10.00 Euro Tour Golf (756874), 1.00 Gillette Soccer Saturday (7119732). 5.30 Budweiser

sketball (59232). 7.30 Spanish Football (537936). **10.00** Rugby League (74226). **11.30** Rugby Union Update Leicester Tigers v London Irish (26416). 1.00 - 7.00 Golf (1327849).

(6491972). **8.00** Soccer AM (2311400). 12.00 Max Power (3905503), 1.00 Boxing (1840428), 1.30 Rugby Union (6419503). **4.00** Salling (9144771). **4.30** Watersports World (3140936). **5.30** FA Cup Special (7721023), 7.00 Euro Tour Golf (5041431). 9.00 Ford Golf USA (5289771). **11.00** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (4876023). **11.30** Spanish Football Barcelona v Real Madrid (7836110). 1.30 Saturday Fight Night (4709733). 3.00 Extreme Saling (5887443). 3.30 - 7.00 International Cricket (2973511). SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 World Terpin Bowing (87967481). 1.00 Golf (98347684). 4.00 Max Power (7431961). 5.00 Motor Racing: NASCAR Busch-Daytona Speedway (13012413). Busch-Dayrona speedway (13012415). 7.30 Rugby League (88300961). 9.00 Rugby Union Update Lelcaster Tigers v London Irish (17438874). 10.30 The Snow Show (86838706). 11.00 Mex Power (90788400). 12.00 Close. EUROSPORT

7.30 YOZ Mag - Youth Only Zone (23431). **8.00** Bobsleigh (55752). **9.00** Alpine Skiing (61706). **10.00** Biathlon (16688400).

11.45 Bobsleigh (754058), 12.45 Luge (931665). **1.45** Biathlon (2198058). **3.00** Tennis (46665). **5.00** Bobsleigh (2139). 5.30 Alpine Sking (78941), 6.30 Tennis (43888), 8.00 Alpine Sking (1023), 8.30 Alpine Skiling (75597). 9.30 Rally (57706). 10.00 Trial (38226), 11.00 Darts (46 12.30 Rally (90356), 1.00 Close.

UK GOLD

7.00 Angels (9656394), 7.30 Neighbours Omnibus (74194313), 9.25 Dallas Omnibus (81797752), 12:10 EastEnders Omnibus (17362042), 3:00 The Bill Omnibus 942752). **5.30** Butterflies (1058684). 6.40 Doctor Who (21999690). 8.00 What a Carry Oni (6723481). 8.35 Herry Enfield and Churts (5190435). 9.45 The Thin Blue Line (8431042), 9.55 Red Dwarf V

(2614936), 10.35 Monty Python's Flying Circus (2080232), 11.15 Live at Jongleurs (7329787). 11.50 Film: LA Story (1991) (6491139), 1.40 Yes, Minister (4779337). 2.15 Yes, Minister (1763269), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Screenshop (6321240). LIVING 6.00 Tiny and Crew (37843619). 6.20 Johnson and Friends (83743690), 6.30 Philbert the Frog (12831077), **6.40** Tiny Tales (84271232), **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang (84270503). 6.50 Polka Dot

Shorts (84195868), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5854868), 7.05 10 plus 2

(5678771), 7.20 Bedtime Stories

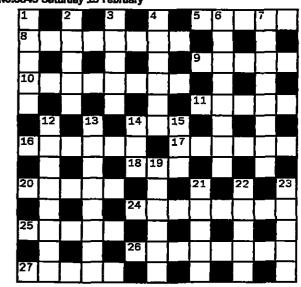
(5930232). 7.25 Babaloos (5939503).

7.30 Cailou (1909232). 7.35 Bug Alert

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 Jason King (6934348), 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (8878597). 7.30 Leave It to Charlie (8953232), 8.00 Watching (4326905), 8.30 Mind Your Language (5776446). 9.00 Mission: Impossible (5616145). 10.00 Persuaders (3959416), 11.00 Man in a Suitcase 88667521, **12,00** The Bounder (1176482). 12.30 Emmerdale (8222619). 3.00 Bonanza (4675077). 4.00 The High Chaparral (4581684). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5835329). **6.00** The Persuaders (5829874). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (2454315), 8.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (6159923), 9.00 El CID (7705067),

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3845 Saturday 13 February



ACROSS

Quibble (5) Cause to accumulate electricity again (8) Ground tobacco (5) Bitterness (8)

Painful muscle spasm (5) 14 Rug (3) 16 Circular cloak (6) Counting frame (6)

18 For every (3) 20 Trap (5) 24 Generation (3-5)

25 Fasten securely (5) 26 Pertinent (8) 27 Counterfeit (5)

14 Cleansing utensil (3) 15 Sailor (3)

DOWN

19 Birds of prey (6) 21 White heron (5) 22 Lesson from fable (5) 23 Malice (5)

African village (5)

Unusuai (8)

13 Disdaining (8)

Notorious (8)

Yellow pigment (5)

12 Hither and thither (2-3-

Mild and soothing (5)

Points for discussion (6)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Roaming, 5 Knows (Roman nose), 8 Bacon, 9 Meander, 10 Improvise, 12 Oft, 13 Praise, 14 Warmth, 17 Ado, 18 Sand dunes, 20 Amphora, 21 Motor, 23 Terse, 24 Panache, DOWN: 1 Rabbi, 2 Arc, 3 Igneous, 4 Gambi, 5 Knave, 6 Odd-jobman, 7 Scratch, 11 Pea-souper, 13 Peasant, 15 Abdomen, 10 CT 16 Encamp, 18 Shone, 19 Serge, 22 Tic.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

C1 N IRELAND BBC1 LONDON except: 4.40 Il Score (75.79684) 5.00 Northern and Results (968139) 5.20 Final re (\$767503). 5.50 Newstre (201313). C1 SCOTLAND BBC1 LONDON except: 4.40 moon Sportscene (3579232), 5.15 in Prince of Bel Air (6937936), 5.50 orling Scotland (201313), 10.35 viscene - Match of the Day (8626874).

C1 WALES REC1 LONDON except: 4.40 E-ore (7651232); 4.55 Wales on Augy (2214674) 5.50 Wales Today

:3131

GLIA LWT except: 12.30 Pirate TV 1491 1.05 Angsi News and Weather 1457481 2.20 Champions of the Ire (62054936) 2.45 Film: The edible Hulk Returns. Scientist Dr David edible Hulk Returns. Scientist Dr David ner continues his quest to rid himself is green-skinnted after ego. His task is to considerably more difficult when to unscrupulous industrialists send on superfictor Thor after him to steal lewest invontion. Bill Bixby and Louisno star (146955) 5.05 Anglia News Sport (9771706) 8.40 (TN News;

Weekend Weather (576058). 1.55 Film: Boy Meets Girl. Engaging drama about the relationships forged among the patrons of the Rose Bar and Grilla. With Jasmine Guy, Reed Diamond. (337266). 3.40 Pnp dram the Pub (4010600). 3.40 Pop down the Pub (40105191). CENTRAL

CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere
(92049), 1.05 Central News and Weather
(73943746), 1.45 NBA 99 (300892), 2.15
Early Edition (9445787), 3.10 Fam: Bionic
Showdown, Six Million Dollar Man Lee
Majors teams up with Bionic Woman
Lindsay Wagner in attempt to resurrect a
couple of old TV hits. (6927139), 5.05
Central News, Weather and Goals Extra Countral News, Weather and Goals Extra (8771705), 8,40 (TN News; National Lottery Update: Weather (676058), 4,05 Jobfinder (4787714), 5,00 Spotlight Asis

HTV WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Movies Games and Videos (92049). 1.00 ITN Gamés and Videos (92049). 1.00 fTN News Headines; National Weather (39587135). 1.05 HTV News (73943746). 2.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon (92226232). 2.40 The Making of the Slege (4284481). 3.05 seaQuest DSV (6066042). 3.55 Team Knight Rider (2454690). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sport (8771706): 1.55 Film: Boy Meets Girl. Engaging drama about the relationships torged among the patrons of the Rose Bar and Grille. With Jasmine Guy, Reed Diamond. (337266). 3.40 Pop down the Pub (40105191). HTV WEST La HTV Wales except: 12.30

Sportsweek (92049), **1.00** ITN News; Weether (39587135), **2.20** Movies, Gemes and Videos (62774/6). 2.50 Warner Brothers Cartoon (7277684). 5.05 HTV West News and Sport (8771708). 8.40 ITN News Headlines; National Weather (676058). MERIDIAN

MERIDIAN

As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs
(92049). 1.05 Meridian News and
Weather (73943745). 2.20 Videotech
(62171416). 2.50 Film: Agatha Christie's A
Caribbean Mystery. Entertaining murder
varn featuring the indomitable Miss
Marple, After a retired British officer is
murdered, Miss Marple's relaxing
Caribbean holiday turns Into a race
examinst the cinck to mervent a nutbless carbosar house on the trace against the clock to prevent a ruthless leller from carrying out his plans. With Helen Heyes, Barnard Hughes, Jameson Parker, Season Hubley, Swoosia Kurtz. (74532969). 5.05 Meridian News and

Weather (8684226). 5.20 Cartoon (5357874). 8.40 ITN News; Weather (676058). 1.55 Film: Boy Meets Girl. Engaging drame about the relationships torged among the patrons of the Rose Bar and Grilla. With Jasmine Guy, Reed Diamond. (537266). 3.40 Pop down the Pub (4076501). Pub (40105191). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies,
Games and Videos (92049). 1.05
Westcountry News (73943/46). 2.20
Film: Muttiny on the Buses (4086085).
3.50 seaQuest DSV (7208705). 5.05
Westcountry News (8771705). 8.40 TN
News; Weekend Weather (678058). 1.55
Film: Boy Meets Girl Engaging drama
about the relationships forged among the
patrons of the Rose Bar and Grille. With
Jasmine Guy, Reed Diamond. (337266).
3.40 Pop down the Pub (40105191).
YORKS-MERE YORKSHIRE

As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (92049). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (73943746). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (5263481). **5.10** Goals Extra (2391955). TYNE TEES kshire except: 105 North

The production of the same of

East News and Weather (73943746). 5.05

Pylamas (91505998), 2.50 Film: Starlet. Acult drama which reveals the dog-eatdog world of Tinseltown as a young hopeful sets out to pursue a career in the movies. With Sheri Mann, David F Friedman (86294578). 4.45 Close.

TURDAY H

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JASPER

TELEVISION REES REVIEW

THERE'S A CULTURAL smug-ness implicit in the way we

nother problem confronts toom that laughs at the s. It may be the decade taste forgot, but in Fawily ers and Steptoe and Son, it led perhaps the two bost sh sitcoms. So the 1870s at sitcoms, so the 1870s at sitcoms and any sitcom says they were might vell aim a pistol at its foot. Days Like These, anglicised version of an ricen series, is mostly bad, title is an echo of Happy s-"days" is a trigger word ostalgia—but it has none of affection for the 1970s, that by Days, made in the 1970s. looked identical to his team mate Kathy Burke, heart warming proof that even at his age, he can still look like a girl.
And finally to Pig at The Kitz? (C5), a surreally pointiess documentary about a woman who aspired to take a member of the eponymous

had for the 1950s. It's not even that interested in them. The scattering of knowing Jokes about perms are a seasoning, rather than the main meal, like the up-to-the minute references written into *Drop the Dead Donkey* at the eleventh hour of the production schedule.

Days Like These isn't really about the 1970s any more than Drop the Dead Donkey was about the news. It's actually about the news. It's actually about the means are from Luton. about the news, It's actually about teenagers from Luton (played by actors in their

100 10

BBC

7.00 The Munsters (T) (6030139). **7.25** News; Weather (3286503).

7.30 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam (R) (6551665). 7.40 Little Monsters (S) (6567329). 7.50 The incredible Hulk (R) (T) (9475459). 8.15 Hero Turtles – the Next Mutation (S) (2010110). 8.35 The Fiintstones (R) (S) (9216955). 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (63210110).

12:10 Newsj Weather (T) (8472023).

12.15 Grandstand (S) (8471394), 12.20 Football Focus (3829400), 1.20 Racing from Newbury (16705752), 1.40 Snooker (47964619), 1.55 Racing from Newbury (47874042), 2.10 Snooker (35239481), 2.25 Racing from Newbury (92230435), 2.45 Around the Grounds (3205955), 2.50 Rugby League: Salford Reds vs Sheffield Eagles. Live coverage of the Challenge Cupfourth-round match (kick-off at 3pm) (3255684), 3.45 Football Half-Times (2031674), 3.55 Rugby League (3813771), 4.40 Final Score (4326400).

5.40 News; Weather (T) (889416). 5.50 Regional News and Weather (201313).

5.55 Big Break. Jim Davidson and John Virgo return with the snookered quiz show (S) (T) (61/400).

6.25 Get Your Act Together. More from this make-over show for pop wannabes. This week, Yvonne Tipping receives advice from ex-Take That producer Charile Repino and Spice Girls stylist Mr Gammon (S) (563566)

Noel's House Party (S) (933771).

7.40 The National Lottery Draw. Big money balls, with music from B*Witched, Barenaked Ladies and Elton John (S) (T) (576884).

8.05 Casualty. Joeh and Penny battle to save the life of a young runaway trapped in a collapsed building. Meanwhile, Sean and Tinas relationship veers ever closer to the rocke (S) (T) (705023).

Sunburn. More from the drametised British holiday repe in Cyprus. Alan ends up in trouble with the law when he tries to assert himself, and Nickl is shocked by a new arrival (S) (T) (278042).

Kiss Me Kate. Office sitcom. Kate (Caroline Quentin) has two weeks' leave coming up, so the others put their heads together to try to find her the perfect holiday (R) (S) (T) (370431).

10.15 News, Weather (T) (669329).

10.35 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam, with Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking, introduces highlights of the FA Cup fifth-round match between Coventry City and Derby County. Plus, a round-up of all the other matches (S) (1) (8626874).

11.45 IIIII In the Company of Darkness (David Anspaugh 1992 US). The nervy presence of Helen Hunt puts a few volts through an otherwise lifeless script about the search for a serial killer. Hunt plays an inexperienced policewoman who goes undercover to be friend the suspected mass murderer (S) (T) (880752). 녆 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (8511240).

Joins BBC News 24 (18617337). To 6.40am.

1.50

HISTORY PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

humanitarian work for Sierra Leone

Please support UNHCR's urgent

United Nations High Commissioner for Risingness

this week's episode of the ongoing history of the Cold War-although it only touches tangentially on the ongoing confrontation with the Soviet Union Instead, "Make Love, Not War - the Sixties" documents that turnultuous decade in the United States, beginning with John F Kennedy telling Americans not to ask what America could do for them etc, and ending with Richard Nixon winning the US presidency on the law-and-order ticket. In between, we had black rights, anti-

Name on card_

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Appeals, PREEPOST SW211, LOWDON, SW1A 27Z

840 BOAS and Sport; Weather (1) (892329).

8.05 (BEODE) Cold War: Make Love, Not We in an edition written by Germaine Greer, the strocuses on the 1960s. See *History Programme Day*, below (S) (807495).

5 Snooker. David Vine introduces en the second semi-final of the Bensor Mesters. Commentary from Clive Execution Special Section 19 Semi-final Semi-final Section 19 Semi-final

DITIDES Why Stephen? A Black Britain special report. Charles Wheeler examines why the Stephen Lewrence murder has touched a nerve with the British public. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (327139).

11.45 Ski Sunday. Not quite Sunday yet -- but the ski action comes from Vall in Colorado (S) (538058). 11.15 If I Ruled the World. Another chance to see last Monday's opening edition in the Cilve Anderson-fronted political comedy show. The guests are Rebecca Front and Tony Hawks (R) (S) (T) (983868).

12.55 댦

12.35 IIII Death of a Qunfighter (Allen Smithee 1969 US). Richard Widmark plays the zero-tolerance sheriff whose tough stance has become an embarrassment to a western towns "civilised" worthles (481578). To 2:10am.

6.10 Open University: Starting Teaching (1708690).
6.35 CyberTalk (9545394). 7.05 Looking at What Happens in Hospital (6020752). 7.30 Framing and Forming (49771). 8.00 Weekend 24 (84226). 9.00 Personal Passions (478748). 9.15 Open Saturday (9890503). 10.35 CyberAri (3569597). 10.40 See Heari (9396890). 11.25 The Sky at Night (8165042). 11.45 The Car's the Star (8573226). 12.05 Food and Drink (S) (T) (1787706).

740 Correspondent. Julian O'Haitoran looks at dime changes in Alaska. The innuit have already had the season halved by the refreat of the ice – and scien predict that the all-year-round ice cover in the Arcik desposar by the end of the next century (S) (2857).

7.55 What the Papers Say. Nyta Man of the surveys last week's newspapers (S) (738597)

coverage of

35.0t

BBC2

12.35 11M One of Our Alvoraft is Missing (Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger 1942 UK). Typically imaginative Powell and Pressburger wartime tale about an RAF bomber crew who are forced to ball out over Occupied Holland and make their way to freedom. With Godfrey Tearle and Eric Portman (66106145).

2.15 11M Mosquito Squadron (Borle Sagal 1988 UK). Old-fashioned (even in its day) tale of derring-do as the RAF conducts low-level bombing raids against German secret-weapon sites. David McCallum stars (9931836).

3.40 Bitesize Britain (2030/45), **3.50** One Man and His Dog (S) (8957955). **4.20** Space 1999 (S) (T) (7896416)

5:10 Snooker. David Vine introduces highlights of the first semi-linal from the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre. Commentary from Clive Everton, Ray Edmonds, John Virgo and Dennis Taylor (S) (59109023).

ews; Weather; Lottery Result (T) (878058).

es in Love Story, Julia
ne wrong side of the tracks
ukaemia-stricken blue-blood
oes chemotherapy; she
y kiss (S) (T) (94953690).

INTERPOOR Meets Girl (Kevin Rodney Sullivan 1993 US). It's row officially Valentine's Day, and ITV is going for it, in case you heven't realised by now. This romance has an injured baseball player falling for a woman who's having doubts about her marriage (575356). To 3.35am

Biind Date. News of Helen and Brandon's motor-racing break and Paul and Michaela's trip to Tunisia (S) (T) (822226).

Family Fortunes. The Canham family from Nottinghamshire play the Preston family from Telford (S) (T) (433145).

earing Glits". The chef eant in Oxford is found Jan Francis guest in e John Thaw/Kevin

GMTV (57:8822). SMTV Live. Steps, Cleopatra and My Town are the studio guests (S) (34893042).

A 99. A new basketball programme providing ilights from the NBA league season (1) (8671348).

TOP-notch Carry On Spying (Gerald Thomas 1864 UK). Top-notch Carry On spoof of the then fledgling James Bond phenomenon, which marked the series debut of Barbara Windsor. She is one of four spies sent to Vienna to retrieve a secret formula from the subversive organisation, Stenich, Kenneth Williams, Bernard Cribbins, Charles Hawtrey and Eric Barker are also involved (939/351).

Early Edition (319874). 4.45 News; Sports Results; Weather (7563023). 5.05 Local News (8771706).

The World's Worst Drivers. Other people's bad driving (without the road rage) caught on police and home video (T) (9368139).

Don't Try This at Home! Daving McCall and more stomach-churning challenges. A motorcyclist jumps three articulated lorries, a father of two goes potholing, and woman feeds some piranhas by hand (S) (17477),

7.55 Station X. The concluding episode of this enthralling series about Bietchiey Park looks at the codebreakers' contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic and the D-Day landings — and how the world's first computer helped win the war. It also chronicles the life and loves of the staff at Bietchiey and the secrecy that shrouded Station X for decades after the end of the war (R) (T) (180023).

DIODE A Bridge Too Far (Richard Attenborough 1977 UK). An all-star cast recreates the fateful Second World War battle for Arnhem, See Film of the Day, below

12.10 Sex and the City (R) (2302917). 12.45 Exploitica Hollywood Exposé (8370424). 120 Valentoons (4319337). 1.50 Women in Pyjames (2814207).

2.20 IIII/I Starlet (Richard Kanter 1969 US). Exploitation movie about a young women's adventures in the Hollywood porno world (969608).

4,05 Hill Street Blues (2252608), 4.85 Pearl (34491612) 5.25 The Magic Roundabout (5916220). To 5.30am.

2.50

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 13 February 1999

6.00 Sessme Street (R) (55619), 7.00 T4: Bush Tales (3200706), 7.06 T4: A Box Full of Stories (R) (S) (6111674), 7.20 Animal Alphabet (R) (S) (3108394), 7.3 Pippl Longstocking (S) (T) (41139), 8.00 Transworld Sport (R) (79394), 9.00 Morning Line (S) (89110), 10. Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (30023), 11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (23787), 12.00 Boardstur Goes Skiing (79077), 12.30 High 5 (R) (2534597).

Ø. 10.00

6.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (9834139). 6.30 Havakazoo (R) (8656590). 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (8974-35). 7.30 Milkehekel (S) (8628578). 7.35 Whrzie's House (R) (3129961). 8.00 Lassie (R) (S) (4902435). 8.30 Wishbone (R) (S) (4901706). 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (4982058). 9.30 Kabland (R) (S) (8840752). 10.00 Loggerheads (R) (857042). 10.30 The Wonder Years (4818042). 11.00 The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (I) (285910). 11.30 Footy Shorts (42192394). 11.45 Beverly Hills. 90210 (R) (S) (I) (1015787). 12.40 Singled Out (R) (S) (48469232). 1.05 Bang Liberty (R) (S) (88455708). 1.30 RAD (88867042). 1.50 5 News (S) (I) (15124503).

Tailes (R) 7.30

CD UK (88313). **12.30** The Food Factory (92049). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (39587135). **1.05** London Weekend Today (T) (73943746). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (9844042).

3.00 **国班** Land of the Pharachs (Howard Hawks 1955 US), Luxor, 3,000 BC, and pharach Jack Hawkins is

Channel 4 Racing from Haydock Park. Lesley Graham presents the 3.15, 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45pm races from the Lancashire course (28467058). having a spot of dynastic trouble as he tries to put the finishing touches to the Great Pyramid. Joan Collins is the scheming princess causing him encient gyp in this (partly) Faulkner-scripted epkc. Quite fun and beautifully photographed, if you like this sort of thing (1) (38418077).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. Nikki reveals the identity of the repist – but has she got the right man? Will Megan tell Anthea about Ron's secret befrayal? Lindsey agrees to provide the extra cash for the club – but what's the catoh? (R) (S) (T) (5150023).

Channel 4 News) Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T) (348).

6.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. The mind-blowing mythological pot-pouri continues with our hero seeking vengeance when Hera attacks his family (S) (5307049).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (9729464).

3.30

Sunset Beach Omnibus. Hold on to your sarity as Amy has a terrible vision (a letter suggesting acting classes, probably) and Annie tries to seduce Gregory (R) (S) (T) (25766315).

2,00

Sportsweek on 5. Gall McKerna Introduces winter sports from Colorado, Ice-hockey, motorcycle racing and Argentinian soccer (S) (1730706).

7.00 Right to Reply. With Roger Bolton (T) (245).

Night Fever. Suggs-hosted karacke nonsense greets Katle Puckrik, Anna Ryder Richerdson, Heather Peace, Torry Blackburn, Junior Simpson, Oliver Skeete and Jeremy Edwards, Entertainment is provided by Lenny Belge and Leo Sayer (S) (9430787).

5 News and Sport (S) (T) (6941042).

7.25 The Spying Game. This week, the radio transmitter. A former Soviet agent tells how she made one out of household goods. And the designer of the S-Phone talks about this undetectable radio phone (609226).

8.05 C-16 FBI. A not exactly starting drama series (come on, Channel 5 bought it) about a Los Angeles-based FBI unit. C-16's newest recruits are thrown in at the deep end when the four-year-old son of the deputy district attorney is kichapped (S) (4188348).

Schneider 1994 US). Based on true life story – and one you'll probably remember: the case of brothers Erik and Lyle Menendez who, in one of America's most notorious trials, stood accused of murdering their wealthy parents in cold blood. The evidence against them is overwhelming, but their lawyer maintains that the brothers have suffered years of abuse at the hands of their parents and that the killings were in self-defence. With Billy Warfock and David Beron as the siblings and James Farenthro and Jill Clayburgh as their parents (F) (S) (T) (89636503).

10.50 EILM s.ifeforce (Tobe Hooper 1985 UK). Tobe "Texes Chainsaw Massacre" Hooper's disappointing adaptation of Colin Wilson's sci-fi novel, *The Space Verripires*, about a group of extraterrestrials who reduce Londoners to a state of sex-crazed bloodiust. Some good moments, but, generally, this sounds better than it is (7851856).

1.00 IIIM Hotline (Jerry Jameson 1982 US). Lynda Carler goes to work answering phones at a crisis centre and starts getting calls from a serial kiter. Dial "R" for rubbish and then hang up (1266066).

TELLVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

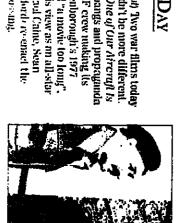


WHY STEPHEN? (10.35pm BBC2. ngh) Nip days before Granada's docu-drama on Steph veteran reporter Charles Wheeler asks what Lawrence's racist murder and the subseque behaviour that has made the case so prominit has brought race relations in Britain into the

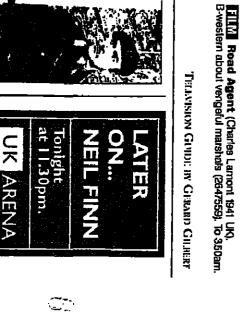
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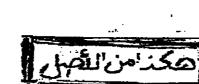


set in Occupied Holland, and they couldn't be more different. From 1942, Powell and Pressburger's One of Our Afreraft is Missing (12.35pm BBC2) escliews hig hangs and propaganda to produce an intimate portrait of a RAF crew making its way to the Chamnel coast. Richard Attenborough's 1977 A Bridge Tro Far was instantly dubbed "a movie too long", and it's hard not to sympathise with this view as an all-star cast Oirk Dogarde, James Cam, Michael Caine, Sean Contery, Laurence Olivier, Robert Rethords re-enact the military blunder of the 1944 Arnhem ero-sing.









Foodie heaven:

SHOPPING, PAGE 11

The best gadgets for your kitchen

it to happen to them. The "pickers" include most of tritain's biggest retailers, councils and tility suppliers. The method they boose is the direct debit.

Direct debits are an increasingly ¹pular way to pay off a huge variety bills. They involve giving an organtation with which you have a finanli relationship the right to withdraw sum of money from your account Unlike a standing order, which lows only for the withdrawal of a set Jount from your bank account, a diact debit can vary month by month match a changing bill, subject to oper notice being given of any lange in how much is being debited. For companies such as gas or elecrity suppliers, the cheapest and

est reliable way to collect money from their customers is via direct deb-4 Often, they will give discounts to istomers who are prepared to use is method, as 31 million people in rtain now do. But the number of emplaints to the Banking Ombuds-an about direct debits have almost subled in the past two years, and the asks are not always keen to honour xir promises of a prompt refund ten problems arise.

Chris Eadie, the deputy Banking boudsman, says that his organisaa received 568 complaints regardadirect debits and standing orders the year to September 1998, against 292 in 1995/96. His guess is that bout half of these come from direct whit users.

The banks have pledged to give cusomers a no-quibble refund if they let ompanies take too much money from their accounts, or take their payments too early. Asked whether they honour this pledge in practice, Eadie says: "They do when we come on the scene and remind them about it. We packa little more punch than the customer on his own."

Complaints about direct debits fall mio two categories. The first, involving withdrawals which are too large thaken too early can be put right with a simple refund.

More serious are the complaints which arise from times when a direct debit which the bank has wrongly stopped. This could lead to, say, an insurance policy being cancelled - with



all the potential hazards that implies. honour the recommendations made by In cases like this, the Ombudsman sets this office. For all practical purposes, any compensation he awards against a bank has to pay up whatever we recthe bank to reflect the policyholder's ommend as compensation." true loss and any inconvenience the

customer has suffered. Mr Eadie says: "Banks agree, as Ombudsman scheme, that they will

Some of the biggest discounts on offer from major utility companies arise in the newly-competitive gas one of the conditions of joining the market. Eastern Electricity, for example, offers gas customers a 7 per

cent discount for switching to direct debits, while British Gas gives its own gas customers 6 per cent. British Gas spokesman Richard Dv-

mond says: "For companies like ours. direct debit is the cheapest way we can collect the money that's owed us by our customers, and that's why we're able to pass on these savings. With the

*THE INDEPENDENT YOURMONEY

TO MAKE IT . HOW TO SPEND

The BMW that thinks it's an E-type MOTORING, PAGE 12



Saturday 13 February 1999

Direct way to your account

Many use direct debits to pay their bills - but they're not always an easy option. By Paul Slade

number of direct debits going through the system, there can always be the odd glitch, but problems are few and

As our table shows, electricity suppliers also offer savings for direct debit customers. For some reason, though, water companies seem reluctant to do this. Neither Thames Water nor Severn Trent - identified by OfWat as the UK's two biggest suppliers - give any discount at all. BT offers a small discount on line rental, but none on the

Some bank customers prefer to rely on standing orders, as they feel this gives them greater control. But standing orders too have their perils.

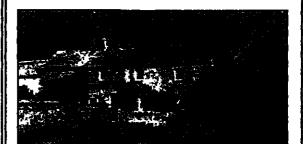
One such problem arises with mortgage repayments. Halifax spokeswoman Alison Kellington says: "Every time the mortgage rate changes, you your bank. That's where people sometimes slip up - they forget to change the standing order when the amount of the repayment goes up, and then they're not paying enough."

Whether you use standing orders or direct debits, one danger you face is that the withdrawals force your account into the red without an authorised overdraft. If this happens, your bank will almost certainly charge

Barclays, for example, charges customers £20 a month if they go more than £20 overdrawn for more than three working days, without gaining the bank's agreement. Arranging a direct debit in the first place, however, is generally free.

Banking Ombudsman: 0171-404 9944

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week Farm from the madding crowd

IT NEEDS re-roofing, a new damp-proof course, windows, kitchen and bathrooms and central heating. Bloomer Hill Farm, once part of the Skipton Castle Estate on the south-facing slope of the Aire Valley in Yorkshire, has been a hard-working Dales farm with little time for life's luxuries, despite its glorious setting.

Part of it was once a nail maker's workshop - the name Bloomer comes from the iron industry - and you can still see the remains of an old beehive oven. The farmhouse - dating in part from the mid-16th century has a 24ft pantry with the original bacon-salting slabs and ham hooks and three acres of land. But it will take

around £50,000 of work to bring it into the 21st century. There is also a stone barn with planning consent for conversion into houses and a further five and a half acres of land. The guide price for the farmhouse is £175,000 and £155,000 for the barn. Details from Simon Thornton on 01943 816213,

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the week

The ultimate Cosworth FORD IS set to launch a high-performance Cosworthbadged version of the Focus, the car of the year. It should be impressive, but it has a hard act to follow in the shape of the hand-built Escort RS Cosworth.

Just 7,143 were delivered between 1992 and 1995. The last batch had a smaller, more responsive turbo that delivered supercar performance of 140mph and

60mph in less than six seconds. Cosworth specialist Automotive Unlimited (01279 8160490) in Essex has perhaps the finest example in captivity, with an astoundingly low 3,800 miles on the clock. Finished in an attractive light blue and with a comprehensive specification, including leather interior and air conditioning, the asking price of £25,995 is very competitive. Collectors will curse if they miss out.

Deal of the week Switch on to Equitable's ISA

WE ALL like to receive something for nothing. So here's one special offer.

Equitable Life will be launching its new Individual Savings Account (ISA) on 6 April. The account, offered through its unit trust subsidiary, is a fund which tracks the UK All-Share index. Normally, such accounts levy an annual charge of up to 1 per cent, but Equitable says you can hold your money free for a year. It will then charge 1 per cent. This is cheap, but not brilliant: Legal & General charges 0.5 per cent in annual fees. The answer is to invest with Equitable Life in year one and then switch to Legal & General. Call 0171-606 6611.

Broker funds run for benefit of managers, not clients

The financial regulator has uncovered a record of years of dire performance by various broker funds, writes Andrew Verity

INVESTORS WHO allow indepenent financial advisers to manage up the tibn of their savings in so-called broker funds are suffering very poor investment performance, City regulators warned this week. Around 100,000 people invest in broker minds, run by independent financial advisers rather than life insurers or

investment managers.
In the past, advisors have argued their detailed knowledge of clients, and the ability to tailor an investment fund to meet their specific needs, offered the potential for outperformance when compared to funds managed by large investment management houses.

However, in its first published survey on the issue, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has found damning evidence of bad value for money in the funds. On average, they returned over 50 per cent less than funds run by dedicated managers.

David Peffer, chief executive of the PIA, says: "Existing investors should watch performance carefully and ask themselves if they are getting value for the extra charges."

Mr Peffer's comments follow mounting concerns about this neglected investment area. Financial. advisers typically levy their own fee on top of that normally charged by the life insurer, doubling the

level of charges. Total charges usu- crack-down on the funds. Advisers ally run to about 2.5 or even 3 per whose funds underperform will be invested in the funds has shrunk cent a year. This means that, assumme inflation of 2.5 per cent, a fund needs to grow by up to 6 per

cent for its value just to stand still. The PIA's survey reveals that savings invested in broker funds returned an average of 2.5 per cent a the funds appeared to be run in the year over the last five years - compared to 4.6 per cent for dedicated fund managers. Investors who put their pension money in broker funds also fared poorly. Broker funds returned an average of 4 per cent a year, against 6.2 per cent for dedi-

The PIA has launched a renewed of funds have been withdrawn from

required to write to clients explaining why their money should remain invested in this way.

The crackdown is the second recent initiative by the PIA after years of complaints that, in many cases, interests of independent financial advisers (IFAs), rather than clients.

In early 1997, the PIA insisted brokers running the funds should be properly qualified and began to insist they have the Investment Management Certificate, a formal qualification. Since then, hundreds

the market. The amount of money from £2bn to £1bn, while the number of funds has dropped from 1,300 to 500. The average amount invested is £2m per fund.

Richard Cockroft, policy adviser at the PIA, says: "There is no excuse now for those firms who are managing funds not to have an investment management certificate. The broker fund market is likely to shrink because of two reasons: the qualifications, and the general perception that these are not always advisable – to put it mildly."

The funds also create a conflict interest for financial advisers

which can potentially compromise their independence. If they persuade clients to join the funds, they enjoy a stream of income which is not available when they recommend a cheaper fund run directly by an investment house.

While IFAs charge for "running" broker funds, they rarely pick the individual stocks in which the money is invested. Instead, they simply invest in a selection of funds from those on offer at an investment house or life insurer. Companies providing selections of funds include Capel Cure Sharp, the private client investment manager, and Skandia

Networks of IFAs, such as Coun-

trywide, also offer funds. Regulators are careful to stress that the performance figures are only averages - some companies performed better. But performance in particular areas has been dire.

Brokers offering "adventurous" funds for life insurance savings - designed for high risk and high reward - made an average of just 0.8 per cent a year over the last five years, much less than the "cautious" version. Their professionally-run counterparts returned 6 per cent. Broker funds for offshore life savings did particularly badly, on average

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THE GENERALLY unreported problem of broker funds hit the headlines this week, as we report on our front page. Many tens of thousands of savers have upwards of £1bn in these funds. In many cases the bonds' performances are abysmal. Yet the advisers and the fund managers administering the individual parcels of money all walk off with large

management fees. Now we hear talk of the Personal Investment Authority (the PIA), the financial regulator, cracking down on these funds.

The problem with such talk is that we've heard it all hefore Back in 1997, the PIA released a report showing that broker funds had, on average, underperformed against their indexes in the previous six years.

"A general observation can be made that on average the underperformance against the index is approximately equal to additional management fees withdrawn from the funds. but that a number of funds have at least matched their chosen index," the PIA noted drily, even then.

The PIA report in 1997 found that broker funds provided 25 per cent or more of the annual income for almost 20 per cent of IFAs that offered them.

Two years later, faced with evidence that this underperformance continues and that £1bn still remains - in most cases, wrongly – invested in broker funds, the PIA's self-styled "crackdown" begins to look weak, to say the least.

It might have been easier to rule that unless a broker fund manager can either show out-performance against a relevant index, or obtains a mandate from all clients specifying that their money should remain in one, all funds should be closed down within six months. But that's far too easy.

IF YOU are one of the many tens of thousands who have called Standard Life Bank to inquire about one of its mortgages, you might be interested to know that the company is currently acquiring borrowers at the



The PIA's crackdown on broker fund fees is beginning to look

weak to say the least

time, at the same time.

bates have been held.

worth more than £60,000.

of her mother.

immediately.

per cent. She also contributes to-

wards a separate mortgage on behalf

The adviser: Philippa Gee, manag-

ing director, Gee & Company, fee-

based independent financial advisers

based in Shrewsbury (01743 236982).

The advice: The first concern is your

mortgage. At the very least, you

held in cash, suffering from lower in-

that the mortgage should be repaid

£340 released each month.

The endowment policy set up for

rate of knots. The advantage of these "flexible" mortgages is that because most are set at a variable rate, without compulsory insurances and so on, it is simple to work out exactly how much they cost relative to the competition.

Strange then, that with the letters confirming that it is prepared to grant you a mortgage, Standard Life Bank is sending out comparison tables. These show it is 0.25 per cent cheaper than Legal & General Bank, which offers a near-identical loan. The comparison dates back to 6 January, which is the day before L&G also cut its rate to match Standard Life.

Obviously there was no attempt by Standard Life to mislead borrowers, and this was pure coincidence. Of course it was.

THE LAST time I was about to incur bank charges (through a oversight on my part), I phoned up my assistant bank manager and successfully pleaded for them to be waived.

Then I succumbed to the notion of convenience and switched to telephone banking instead. This week I received a letter from my new bank telling me that, because I was over my agreed overdraft limit for about three days last month, I would have to pay a one-off charge of £35.

A very nice woman at the othe other end of the phone was completely inflexible on the matter. Which is fair enough, I suppose. Rules are rules - although it makes me yearn for my old assistant

Critical choices ahead

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: MELINDA PHILLIPS AGE: 50 OCCUPATION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A NATIONAL CHARITY



payment and part endowmentbacked mortgage with Cheltenham Melinda Phillips wants to plan for the further education of her children, Josh and Rhiannon & Gloucester, at a variable rate of 8.2

There remains the mortgage, on your mother's home. While you could repay the borrowings in full now I would advise against this, as it will significantly deplete your assets.

I have spoken to the lender concerned, who would be willing to change your mother's mortgage to a discounted or capped rate to reduce costs. They would also allow you to then alter the capital repayment should negotiate with your own portion of the mortgage to take adlender to take advantage of a more vantage of an "interest-only concompetitive rate to reduce monthly cession", where payments will outgoings. Given the sizeable funds consist of only the interest element and the capital borrowed is eventuterest rates, I would instead suggest ally repaid from the estate. This would reduce your monthly outgoings by up to a further £100.

Turning to your existing invest-50 per cent of the loan should conments, we need to retain a cash sum tinue and the capital produced at ma-turity, tax free, could be used for for you as a float to cover one-off expenses and financial "emergencies" additional retirement income. The reand £10,000 should suffice. Excludsult of this repayment will be around ing the Tessa you re-invested last year, there are more than five dif-

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ferent savings accounts and I would suggest that we scale these down to just one; the SAGA account.

This leaves a lump sum of £10,000 to invest now for the children's education, along with the monthly amount of £400 released by the mortgage changes proposed. Assuming a total of £4,000 a year is required per child for four years, increasing by 3 per cent, we estimate a total of £40,000 could be required between 2004 and 2009.

Providing the Tessa and PEPs continue to provide you with competitive returns, these should cover the costs highlighted above.

You are concerned about the effect of current stockmarket volatility on these PEPS and wonder whether to sell now to secure profits achieved to date. While I appreciate your apprehension, the funds are not required for at least five years, and with the tax advantages a PEP can provide, these should be maintained.

It would be right to build up a more balanced portfolio with further investments, and in particular the fixed interest sector. You have already expressed an interest in corporate bonds - you should not be swayed by the media attention given to this type of investment, but a holding of up to £6,000 to make use of your general PEP allowance could be appropriate. This would leave £4,000

You plan to retire between 60 and 65, and have various pension arrangements in place, as well as the endowment proceeds, which we have suggested you no longer use for the mortgage. The next stage is to request an up-to-date assessment of what you might receive from each pension source at retirement and obtain a state pension forecast from the DSS (simply by completing a short form known as BR19). Based on those details you could then consider need to protect your earnings ability increasing the amount invested into

Neville Elder

your additional voluntary contribut tions (AVC) scheme

I would suggest no more than up to half of the monthly sum saved on your mortgage. For the remaining monthly amount a standing order should be set up now to boost your cash "float" and discipline you into these regular savings. In April this year, you should start an ISA with a mixture of an initial £4,000 capital sum and then monthly amounts to top it up to the maximum of £7,000; in the first year and £5,000 thereafter.

The value of your property means, that there will be an inheritance tax liability on your death. The inclusion of your niece within the arrangements of your estate is not an issue you have considered yet. I would urge you to take account of this.

Finally, although your employer provides significant income protection and other health benefits, you

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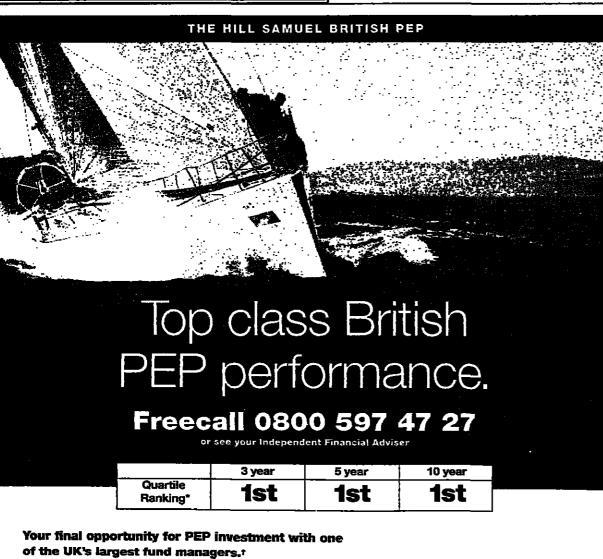
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HILL SAMUEL

Hill Samuel Asset Management - the fund management arm of the Lloyds TSB Group

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To receive a Priority PEP Pack - Freecali 0800 597 4727 or complete the freepost coupon below or www.bilk Please cut out and post to: Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers, Freepost (RG453), Newbury, Berks RG14 52P

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available to make your investment work harder for you. In fact, with the European Index-Tracking PEP you'll be investing in some of the most successful names in Europe including BMW, Nestlé, Bayer,

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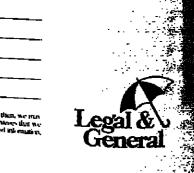
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In every market – street or financial – one man's junk is another man's goldmine

Down the junkyard

Are junk bonds a good investment or a load of rubbish, asks Teresa Hunter

alling interest rates may raise a cheer from Britain's nine million homebuyers, but they can cause real hardship for the country's savers, particularly those trying to live off the income from their

Interest from bank and building society accounts will tumble from the beginning of next month to around 4.5 per cent gross, 3.5 per cent net of tax, following the latest cut in the cost of borrowing. At these levels, even a fairly substantial pot of 100,000 pounds will only produce £300 monthly income.

Returns from Government bonds also slid sharply from 6.3 per cent last year to 4.5 per cent, and are expected to continue to decline further as our interest rates converge with those in Europe, where bank rates are 3 per cent.

high income funds which are flooding look like the best bet in town. with investors determined to narrow the

Their advocates believe junk bond funds represent one of the best investment opportunities currently available. Their critics argue that novice savers are being persuaded to risk their shirts on junk which may never be able to meet its obligations.

How safe is investing in bonds? Usually, as safe as it gets. Most bond funds invest in fixed interest stocks, which guarantee an income until maturity. When issued by governments in their own currency, there is virtually no risk of default, because they simply print currency to meet their obligations.

These bonds, called gilts because they are considered a "gilt-edged" investment, are currently yielding about 4.5 per cent. But a word of warning. It is not unknown even for sovereign states to run into difficulties. Russia and Indonesia have recently struggled with foreign debt repayments.

So only bonds issued by governments are safe? Not entirely. A number of blue chip companies also issue bonds, which are not as safe as gilts, but are the next best thing. They typically yield 1 or 1.5 per cent more than gilts, and took off with the launch of corporate bond personal equity plans in 1993.

The likelihood of these companies defaulting is thought to be very slim, but the risk is assessed by credit rating agencies, like Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The safest corporate bonds get a triple A or double A gold star rating.

So what's the big risk?

These high yielding funds aren't investing in the triple A rated bonds. Socalled "junk" corporate bonds promise a return of 7.5 per cent or 8 per cent by buying bonds of companies with much poorer ratings, which means they also have a more pronounced default risk. pe, where bank rates are 3 per cent. Anyone who needs to pay 3 per cent Which explains why a new breed of above the going rate of interest doesn't

> So they're too risky to touch? Not necessarily, as long as you understand precisely what you are investing in. Although new to the UK scene, the junk bond market has thrived in the US for some time. Very respectable companies issue these bonds. There are currently a flurry from telecom firms like Orange or Colt Telecom, who are too new to have earned higher ratings.

Scottish Widows Extra 8% gross (after charges) Income & Growth Pep paid monthly

M&G's Theodora Zemek believes that investors are over-compensated for the risk the bonds will default, which he puts at 3 per cent. Furthermore he claims that the credit rating agencies are not necessarily a good guide to a company's credit-worthiness.

She argues: "American studies have shown that there is a low degree of correlation between credit ratings and the likelihood of default. They are useless when it comes to predicting so called 'event risk'.'

She believes the best deals are with companies who are likely to be upgraded during the life of the bond, and these are the investments she actively seeks out. That way you buy into a high yield, with a company which is a much lower risk than implied by the yield.

Does anyone agree with her? Yes. Scottish Widows, Fidelity, Framlington, Perpetual and Schroder have which mix gilts, triple A rated bonds and PEP explains: "There is a much greater junk bonds.

What do the critics say?

They have three main criticisms. Firstly they maintain that investors do not understand the risk they are taking when they buy these funds, and think they are as completely safe as other bonds. Second, they warn that higher than

	-	
JUNK B	ONDS OR HIGH IN	ICOME FUNDS?
FUND NAME	ESTIMATED YIELD	CHARGES
Fidelity Extra Income	7.5% Gross (after charges) paid monthly	3.25% initial 1.25% Annual (taken from inco
Framington European Bond	8% gross (after charges) paid monthly	3.75% initial 1% Annual (taken from the cap

8% gross (after charges)

1.25% Annual (taken from income) Exit charges decreasing over five years from 4.5 down to 1% 3.15% initial 1.25% (taken from the capital) Perpetual Monthly

3.25% initial 1.25% Annua Schroder High paid quarterly (taken from the capital)

So what's the best advice? As always, if you can afford to take a risk. buy a little bit of everything. If you can't, stick with the traditional gilt and triple A corporate bond funds.

BT enters the fight to make you free

It looks as though Internet service providers will have to drop their fees - or pay the price

SO ARE you still paying for your Internet access? How quaint! The virtual world runs on a different clock to the real world and it seems that the business model of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) is mutating again. British Telecom has decided to join in, this week launching BT Clickfree, its own free access service, and Tesco is offering its 10 million Clubcard holders free Internet access as well.

In the face of competition like this, it is going to be difficult for any of the approximately 300 ISPs in the UK to continue to charge you a monthly fee to access the Internet. So how do/will they make their money? Through a fraction of the money you spend on hooked up, and through advertising, of course.

FOR THOSE of us who do not fancy boiling a kettle while mountains of graphicheavy banners and animations we do not actually want to look at download themselves, there is an answer. Webwasher washes your browser page whiter-than-white!

normal charges on a bond fund, also

puts the capital at risk. Finally, the je-

remiahs predict a sharp rise in the rate

at which these bonds default if the world

Murray Johnson's Chris McGinty is

convinced that any promise of a yield

of above 6.5 per cent in the UK, and

above 5.5 per cent in Europe, must put

your capital at risk. He says: "The real

concern is investors looking for in-

come who buy 'off the page'. They are

more likely to buy a high headline rate

new funds chasing a limited amount of

stock, will push up prices in the short term, which could well crash later.

pendent financial advice firm, also

warns about the risks, but concludes

that, on balance, there are attractions for investors desperate for income,

provided they understand the pitfalls. and a director

risk of capital loss than with a conven-

tional corporate bond fund, especially

if charges are taken from the capital. If

the current economic slowdown moves

into a steep recession there is a likeli-

hood of an increase in the default rate

mits that there is a greater risk of de-

fault with a junk bond than with the

How often do junk bonds default?

Surprisingly little, but when they do it

can be spectacular. Mismanagement of

junk bonds was at the root of the "sav-

ings and loans" scandal in the US, where

an entire financial sector was all but

default, although debts were restruc-

More recently in the UK we have seen Barings Brothers and Queen Moat

wiped out in the early Nineties.

tured and some payments made.

share of a blue chip company.

And even Perpetual's Paul Causer ad-

on less creditworthy corporate debt."

He is also concerned that a flood of

BESt PEP, the London-based inde-

without understanding the risks."

economy stumbles into a recession.

Siemens has made its WebWasher tool available to all Internet users as a freeware program. Business users are asked for a nominal licence payment, but the program is free to private users. It is



INTERNET. INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLÔT

your Internet browser, and allows you to screen out material of no interest. Alan Norman, marketing

director at Siemens Computer Systems, commented: "WebWasher enables everyone to use the Internet more efficiently. without hindering the variety of information available. Users can choose which contents they wish to view and are not compelled to pay transmission fees for unwanted material."

ONE OF the newer personal finance websites. MoneyeXtra, says it has attracted over 20,000 registered users in 8 weeks. MoneyeXtra claims this makes it one of the most successful launches of a personal finance site in the

UK. Since launching in December, nearly 6,000 users have accessed the MoneyeXtra service to obtain comparative mortgage rates and product details and nearly 4,000 have run a search for the best deposit account.

SOMETHING OF a milestone

has also been passed by Charles Schwab Europe. The stockbroker's Internet trading service handled more than £100m in trades in the latter half of last year. following the launch in June of its "second generation" online dealing service. That figure is allowing the brokerage to boast pole position in the entire UK ecommerce market.

THE LATEST study by Internet analysts Fletcher Research shows that the sale of computer goods turned over £168m in the whole of 1998. The next largest e-commerce markets were airline tickets (\$24m); books (£15m) and music (£8m).

WebWasher: www.siemens.de; servers:w wash;wwash_us.htm; MoneyeXtra: www.monevextra.com Charles Schwab: http://www.schwabworldwide.com/europe Robin can be reached at RobinAmlot@aol.com

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Source: Standard and Poor's Micropal, Lump sum investment, offer to bid prices, not income re-invested from LiL96 to LiL98, + 39.7%. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. "Source: The Research Department Ltd © 1994-1998. As at 6.199, 1441 funds in survey, Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

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The even better news is that I had no trouble in dealing with the Austrian currency. There are 20 Austrian schillings to the pound. I seem to recall that, until 28 years ago, the same measure applied to our own currency. interestingly one of my travelling companions told me that 20 schillings has been the exchange rate for a considerable length of time. There has to be a

moral there somewhere. Travelling around the ski resorts of southern Austria I was struck by the fact that only one restaurant I came across offered the option for

settling the bill in euros. Since no establishment appeared to accept credit cards. I have not had the chance to discover the effect of being billed in the new European currency for services purchased in the EU. Still, it was an interesting venture into an alternative culture and one which at my age and build is unlikely to be

repeated in a hurry It was amazing how much had changed during the brief period I was away. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee lowered interest rates by 50 basis points, while the FTSE index seemed to do nothing but go South. It is only in the last day or so that share prices here in the UK have steadied.

We seem to have a classic conflict here and in the US between the weight of money seeking investment opportunities, and the increasing nervousness of professional managers over the valuation levels accorded to equities

Take the shake-out in Wall Street at the beginning of the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by a little over 1 per cent, but Nasdao was nearly 4 per cent down. Much of this was due to a sudden disenchantment with



BRIAN **TORA**

Internet stocks, virtually all of which are quoted on this exchange. In a way I

of an Internet company bought by one of the established American high-tech houses for nearly a quarter of a billion dollars. This firm, formed by a small group of young Israeli rocket scientists, had no revenues, no profits simply ideas. But they were worth a lot of money Perhaps their aspirations will be translated into revenues in due course.

Meantime, we have seen a gentle reassessment of some value areas in investment. most notably smaller elds, now considerably nigher than those achievable on gilts, are at last attracting investors.

Many of these smaller businesses are in manufacturing and sell more the desperation of money seeking a home at rock bottom, multinational companies are there seems little to buy.

question, but I shall now spend some time trawling the market to see what might have been

asset management division of Greig



Interest rates have come down while the FTSE index has just gone South

find this encouraging. Not so long ago I read

But there are some crazy valuations out there.

company stocks where the opportunities and dividend

abroad. I rather think it is a time when gilt yields are close to all time highs and

Ski stocks are out of the overlooked.

Brian Tora is head of the Middleton



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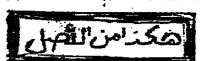
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It's an expensive business

An analysis of funds' add-on costs throws up some interesting anomalies



DAVIS

comments last week about the costs charged by unit trusts seems to have struck a chord with several readers. Many of you have expressed surprise that there is no formal requirement on funds to disclose their total expense ratios, as opposed to their annual management fee. Most investors naturally assume that the annual management fee includes

all the costs that they are going to be charged. But it is not so. It is true that the extra costs charged are relatively small. The average extra cost is only 0.21 per cent for all UK funds (average management fee 1.18 per cent, average total expense ratio 1.39 per cent). But the average conceals a wide variety of different experience.
It is striking how widely the add-on costs can

differ from group to group. In any event, as the analysts at Fitzrovia International point out, even 0.21 per cent equates to a 15 per cent increase in the cost borne by investor and the control of the consulative effects are according to the cost borne by investor. fect over several years can still be striking.

The tables shown here summarise the findthe highest and lowest total expense ratios in Fitzrovia's universe of equity funds (the data excludes groups which have fewer than three distinct funds to analyse).

It throws up some anomalies, though as I noted last week, a group with a high total expense ratio (such as Jupiter) may well be able to claim that its higher costs are justified.

Most groups with strong track records will tend to try and charge 1.5 per cent per annum as a management fee, this being about the most that the UK market seems willing to bear

There is a comparison to be made between different funds. Equity funds are the most expensive, on average, but at least it is possible to lay claim to superior performance, even if only a minority beat the market averages over time.

There is no such excuse for bond and cash funds. As Paul Moulton, chief executive of Fitzrovia International, points out, one type of cash fund should be much the same as the next.

Explaining why some groups offer cash funds with total expense ratios between 0.5 and 0.6 per cent, while others charge more than 1.1 per cent, is therefore an interesting question. With bond funds, total expense ratios range from 0.38 per must be measured. Boring - but true.



ings. One lists the fund management groups with All that glisters is not gold in the world of invest

cent to groups with ratios above 1.6 per cent. One moral is that that it pays to shop around. One moral is that that it pays to shop around. There is no point in giving away with one hand much of the benefits gained from taking your money out of the building society in the first place.

Then there are index funds. This hobby horse has already been flogged to death in this column. But you may not have seen that the regular monitoring of tracker versus active funds. Old N ular monitoring of tracker versus active funds carried out by HSBC. It recently showed that the brief triumph of CIS (Co-operative Insurance Society) 1.08% 1.84%

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the third quarter last year, when active managers out-performed tracker funds for the first time for some while, was overturned in the last quarter of the year. Only one-third of actively-managed funds beat the index in 1998 and in he past 10 years only one in five has managed the feat. Fitzrovia's analysis confirms that index funds

are also the cheapest way to invest in the equity market. The figures are given in my second table. UK tracker funds have total expense ratios

a third to a half cheaper than those of actively managed funds. Index funds remain the benchmark against which other types of managed fund

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schild Asset management	2.30%	Equitable Unit Trust Managers	0.50%
ter International Group	2.08%	Royal London Unit Trust Managers	0.67%
Govett Asset Management	1.95%	Flemings	0.85%
Mutual International	1,93%	Scottish Equitable Group	1.06%
Place investments	1.91%	M&G	1.06%
ropolitan Unit Trust Managers	1,90%	Scottish Life Assurance Company	1.08%

Scottish Mutual

Schroders

Source: Fitzrovia internationa

1.10%

1.12%

Total expense ratios, %, by area of investment							
	UX	US	Europe	World	Japan	Par East	
Equity fund	1.39	1.47	1.52	1.51	1,60	1.73	
index fund	0.92	0.80	0.88	1.01	0.79	7,00	
Difference	0.47	0.67	0.64	0.50	0,81	0.73	

1.83%

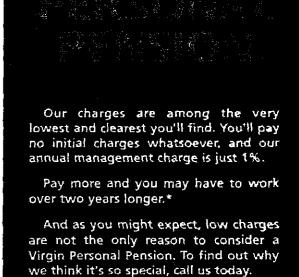
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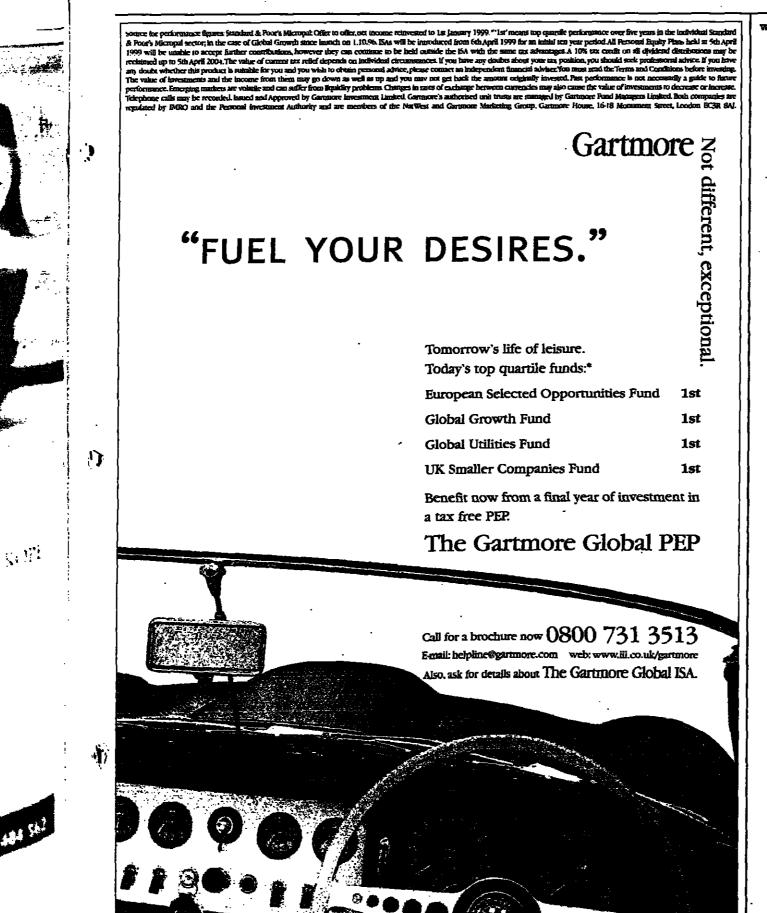
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How the monster eats your savings

Let's hope that the Government's proposals for pensions remove some of the charging scandals. By John Chapman

in all the Treasury's proposals on pensions - from stakeholder schemes to the new unit and investment trustbacked vehicle discussed last week - it is an emphasis on the need for low-charging funds.

The Treasury's insistence on lowcost products has informed its plans on "CATmarking", or setting benchmarks for investments. It is also reflected in an unrelenting hostility to the way life insurance companies are perceived to be levying heavy fees on the pensions they sell to the public.

There is no question that many companies impose heavy charges. These can take several forms. Most plans have so-called "bid/offer

spreads" of 5 per cent. This means that if you place £100 in a pension today, it will only be worth £95 tomorrow. Then there are fund charges of around 1 per cent a year, falling to 0.5 per cent after some 10 years.

Unit trust PEPs have similar charges, of course. However, pension companies then slip in plan fees of around £3 per month, which rise with inflation. Even then, with most companies, such charges fall well short of covering their costs, which are dominated by the heavy commissions they pay those people and firms who sell their products. Rig-hitting charges now come into play.

The most common way this is done involves sharp reductions in the allocation of early premiums into investment units. In other words, in the first year or two that you pay premiums into a pension, a large slice of your money disappears in charges.

The lowest allocations include 35 per cent of premiums paid for 30 months with Allied Dunbar, 30 per cent for 27 months with Eagle Star, and 35 per cent for 24 months with Sun Life of Canada. This means that if you pay premiums of £200 a month for 2 years, a total of £4,800, you can say goodbye to £3,120 or £3,360 if the fund grows by 9 per cent a year.

policy holders are charged is through the use of "capital units". Premiums for year one, or years one and two, will often go into these units. Charges on would reduce growth to 8 per cent, an capital units affect you in two ways. RIY of 1 per cent.

f there is one unifying theme First, if you stop paying premiums, you will lose a substantial chunk of them. For example, if you stop paying £200 monthly premiums at the end of year two with plans from Canada Life or J Rothschild, you would lose around £2,500 or £3,000.

However, with other charges, the

RIY may not be constant. Thus, a plan

fee of £3 a month, rising in line with

inflation, would reduce 9 per cent

annual growth to 7.4 per cent after 2

years, and to 8.7 per cent after 10

per cent at 2 years and only 0.3 per

cent after 10 years.

cent a year by year two.

2.8 per cent at year 10.

years. The plan fee has an RIY of 1.6

If only 50 per cent of premiums for

years 1 and 2 are allocated to a plan,

the effective investment growth of all

the premiums would be minus 47.5 per

cent a year by year five, and to plus 6.2 per cent a year by year 10. The

RIYs of such a reduction in early

allocations would then be 56.5 per cent

at year 2, 10.2 per cent at year 5 and

The RIY make-ups of big-hitting

mixes of charges are illustrated in the

first part of our table. The effects of

charges like bid/offer spreads, annual

fund charges and plan fees, are

dwarfed by the big-hitting charges.

Some 27 well-known companies are

listed as using such heavy charges, but

many others do. Taking account of

lapses, towards half or more of the

plan-holders of these companies stand

to make losses or very poor returns.

have such big-hitting charges, as

shown in the second part of the table.

Some companies, six of which sell

through independent financial advis-

ers, such as Standard Life and Scot-

tish Widows, recoup costs through small but constant cuts in allocations

of money invested by policy holders.

There is also a growing band of very

low charge companies, as Equitable Life is joined by direct sellers like Vir-

gin, Direct Line and several others.

basic reason why people still buy

plans with hard-hitting charges. But

that ignorance has been backed by the

inaction of governments and regula-

tors. Up to now, they have appeared

stupefied by an industrial monster

which consumes rather than multi-

plies the savings of up to half the peo-

It is to be hoped that the Govern-

ment's new initiatives will help to bring

ple it is meant to serve.

Ignorance of the situation is the

But not all pension companies

Confused? You should be.

This would change to minus 1.2 per

Second, even if you keep paying premiums into the pension, your cap-ital units are subject to levies as high as 6 per cent a year - for the duration of the pension. This means that if investment growth is 9 per cent a year your capital units would grow at only 3 per cent a year. There will always be a chunk of your pension affected in this way, no matter how long you continue paying premiums.

Of course, companies argue that over the years, the effect of capital units is gradually diluted. However, the reverse applies if a policyholder halts contributions into the pension, as

The most misleading way in which policy holders are charged is through 'capital units'

more of the overall fund will always be hit at the higher level.

A charitable interpretation of these charges is that only a few people stop paying premiums, or that companies do not expect lapses to happen. The truth is different. Recent figures from the Personal Investment Authority the financial watchdog, indicate that, depending on the sales outlet, some 30 to 40 per cent of planholders stop paying premiums by the end of the fourth ar. With many companies, over half the planholders stop by the end of the fifth year. Companies not only know about lapses - they plan their charges to take account of them.

The effects of individual charges can be compared through "reductions The most misleading way in which in yield", or RIY But this can be confusing to many. For example, assuming investment growth at 9 per cent a year, a 1 per cent annual charge

TO THE WORLD'S NOT I



Many private pension holders are being ripped off Phil Dye/SDR HOW PENSION FIRMS SHORT-CHANGE US

with reduction in yelld make-ups, %

Early reductions in allocations Companies using type of mix Abbey National, Allied Durbar, Asa, Combill, Eagle Stat, Legal & General, Lloyds TSB, Midland, NatWest, Fund charge 1% pa, & 0.5% pa after 10 years 50% reduction in allocations for 2 years then 105% allocation 2.1 1.0 5% bid/offer soreas 1.0 5.1 0.3 69.9 1.6 76.9 0,6 0,3 1,7 0,3 2,9 5% bid/offer spread Fund charge 0.3% pa 2 year units. 3.5% levy Pian fee (£3m pm) Overall RÍYs Penalties on transfer Fund charge 1,2% pa Plan fee (E4m pm) Typical large penalty Overall RTYs 0.8 5.1 2.1 0.3 5% bid/offer spread 1.0 5% reduction in all allocations Fund charge 1% pa. & 0.5% pa after 10 years 5.2 . 2.1 1.0 0.7 1.0 0.6 5.8 1.0 0.3 3.3 Plan fee (£3m pm) 12.9 Mixes in some ry low charge plans Direct Little Fund charge 1% pa 2% reduction in all allocations 1.0 1.0 1.0 Equitable Life 3.5% bid/offer spread Fund charge 0.5% pa Overall RIYs Virgin Direct Fund charge 1% pa

LOOSE CHANGE

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A casual attitude to skiing insurance can prove very costly. By Teresa Hunter

Don't be a fall guy

wheel of a car without adequate insurance. Yet, as tens of thousands of UK families prepare to strap on skis during the coming half-term holiday, many of them will do so without a thought for the consequences of an accident.

If so, they should take note of the fact that a huge surge in law suits means courts are now determined that someone should pay for any reckless frolicking in the snow.

British lawyers are very concerned at the way UK skiers head for the winter sun with hardly any basic understanding of rules that Europeans regard as a legally enforceable highway code of the snow. This leaves them vulnerable to criminal prosecution as well as claims for compensation. Furthermore, UK insurers are now encouraging policyholders to sue for

loss of earnings, pain and suffering. Winter sport litigation expert, Bronwen Courtenay-Stamp, of the solicitors Stones, Cann and Hallett, explains: "We all know the Americans are very litigious, but people underestimate the extent to which

NLY A madman Europeans have always been quick would sit behind the to sue for skiing accidents. Over the last couple of years we have seen an explosion in claims."

The need for a well designed ski insurance policy is clear, and travellers who simply opt for the policy at the back of a holiday brochure, or worse still opt out altogether, could be making the most expensive mistake of their lives.

David Sterling, of specialist ski insurer Crispian Spiers argues: "Whatever happens, if you have insurance, you have someone on your side. Insurers will support you in very difficult circumstances. But

buying the right policy is essential." A good policy should provide £2m third-party liability cover. However most ski policies will not cover accidents on a mechanical vehicle, such as a snowmobile, so you need to consult a specialist broker for that.

Research also reveals that one in 10 people who go skiing this winter will need medical assistance following an injury, but the same accident can cost widely differing amounts depending on the resort.

Brokers recommend a minimum of £1 million medical cover, but this should not be viewed as some kind



A simple accident can wipe the smiles off the slopes if you are not properly insured Allsport

of private medical insurance. It is catastrophe cover, designed to provide emergency treatment and to get you home. Any prior medical condition is strictly excluded.

A spokesman for the Insurance Ombudsman warns: "Policyholders should get approval for all medical treatment before it takes place to prevent disputes when they return to this country.

"A doctor in Switzerland might say that a particular form of treatment might possibly be necessary; the insurer could later dispute this."

The Ombudsman relies on doctors on the spot when it comes to arbitrating disputes, but to avoid wrangles keep the insurer informed and get copies of all medical reports.

Another contentious area is the loss of skis or equipment. Although most policies cover skiing equipment, they nearly all spell out the skier's "duty of care". So, if you leave your skis outside a restaurant or bar all your loss. (extremely common) and they are stolen, the policy will not pay out.

One exception is the contract from ski specialists DCT. A spokesman explains: "The reality is you can't expect skiers to walk into a restaurant wearing their skis. If you claim to be a specialist ski insurer, you have to cover the skis." David Sterling has his own tip.

"Split your skis up when you go in. Put one round one side of the restaurant and one around the other." Always make sure that your

policy covers passes, ski packs and lessons which you might be unable to use following an injury, but beware, as some policies set low daily limits, which would not cover

Similarly opt for a contract which compensates for piste closure following poor weather conditions.

Many skiers are opting for annual travel policies, which allow them a summer break and typically provide two weeks of winter sports cover. Options offers an annual Europe plan for £38, with a family policy from TravelPlan Direct starting at £66.50. Frequent skier policies provide up to four weeks' annual ski cover, starting at around £50, but are more costly for those flying to the US.

SINGLE TRIP EUROPE Options 01252 747747 Direct Travel 01903 812345 Travel Plan Direct 20.50 0800 018 8747 Note: Options has \$2,000 max on all baggage claims UŚA/CANADA 3,000 Worldwide Travel 50.90 01892 833338 Columbus Direct 53.00 Direct Travel 54.50 FREQUENT ANNUAL including us single (fan 3.000 400 iravei Plan Direct. 91.50 3.000 BIIBA 96.97 0171 623 9043 (160.09) Boots 99.00 0845 840 2020 (148.50)

DON'T GET PISTE OFF

AS THE glistening sea of virgin snow beckons, not many people stop to think that most policies exclude off-piste skiing. That detail is often buried in the small print.

Even one reputable highstreet retailer has produced a leaflet for its winter sports insurance policy showing skiers skiing off-piste - although offpiste skiing is excluded by the policy, unless the policyholder is accompanied by a qualified instructor or a guide. And the page which lists activities that are not covered depicts skiers off piste.

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A spokesman for the company says that there was no intention to deliberately mislead, and that the wording of the brochure was perfectly clear.

The pictures were merely chosen to reflect winter sports activities, the spokesman added.

Millions facing hard times at retirement

Pension planning is vital for so many. By Nic Cicutti

retirement planning and Government initiatives on the pensions front, more people than ever before face financial hardship when they halt work.

These are the findings of a survey by Fleming Asset Management, the investment trust and pension provider. They show that, since 1996, when the company carried out its last survey on the same issue, the number of people who would be badly off at retirement has grown from 10 million to 13 million.

be worse off in retirement also appears to be growing: whereas 62 per cent of people surveyed in 1996 felt they would be better off, this dropped to 51 per cent three years later.

Ian Overgage, marketing manager at Flemings, says: "Even with the Government's proposals for lower earners announced in the recent Green Paper, the vast majority of people will still not benefit. People who are earning a decent salary simply cannot rely on the state.'

Fleming's research also shows that the number of people aged 50 to 59 who will be entering into retirement in financial hardship has dou-

DESPITE THE constant talk about the need for bled to 1.2 million since 1996. This is caused by sharply falling annuity rates, which will reduce substantially the payout to be expected from maturing personal pensions or so-called money purchase schemes. Actuaries are adjusting their annuity rates downwards to compensate for the fact that people now live longer, on average.

In particular, self-employed people are likely to be hit hard. In 1996, some 54 per cent were not putting enough into their pension, a figure which grew to 64 per cent in 1999. This compares ing enough provision for their future.

Women taking career breaks are affected too: a failure to invest in a pension while bringing up children can have a disproportionate effect on retirement income. This is because money invested at a early point in a career has the opportunity to grow for the longest period of time before retirement – or not, if a person stops work to raise a family.

Flemings has produced a free guide to pensions, which explores the issue of how to plan for a financially secure retirement. Call 0500 500161

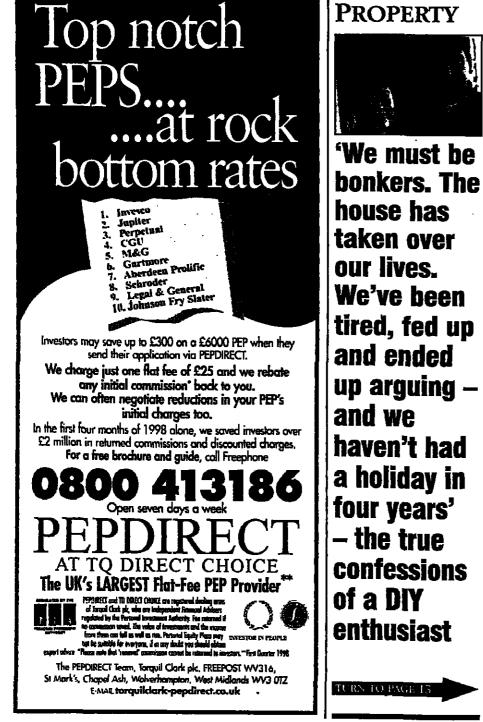
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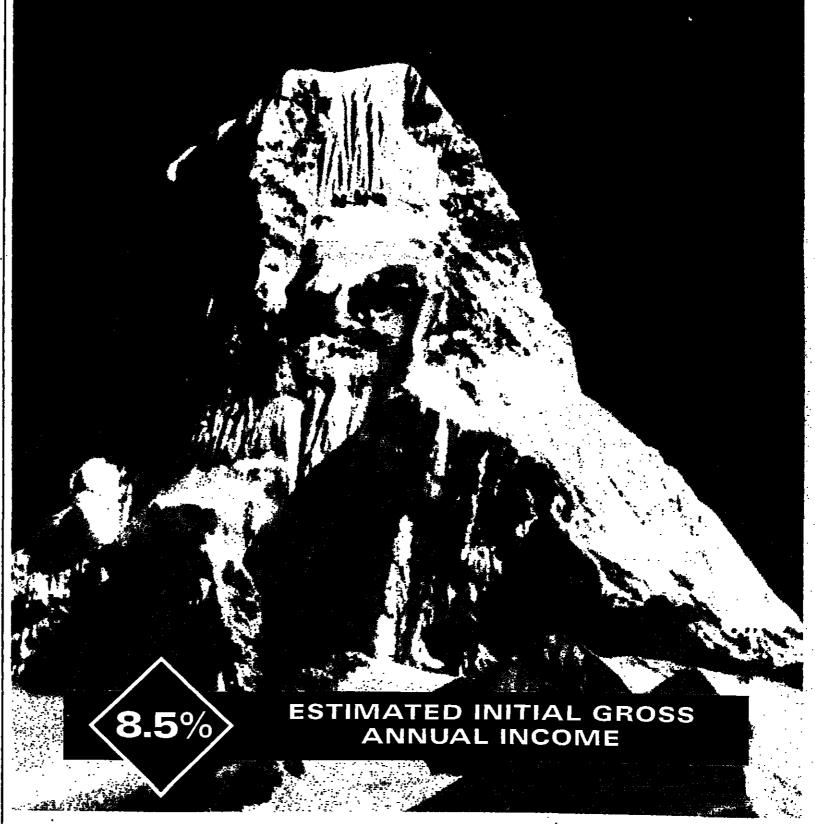
> Income can be paid monthly. And with up to 20% of the fund investing in shares in the UK stockmarket, there's real potential for capital growth.

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Roller-coaster ride to riches

Spread betting is a high-risk gamble that lets you punt on anything from the predicted value of the euro to the number of times Gordon Brown sips a drink during his Budget speech. Get it right and you could make a fortune. By Simon Read

investment and mainstream gambling - risking money for the sheer thrill of it. It is definitely not for the faint-hearted. On any particular trade, wins can realistically total hundreds of times your initial stake. However, the potential to lose a similar sum is just as great.

It offers the roller-coaster ride of derivatives trading to everyone. Many of the UK's 20,000 account holders concentrate on sport, but two companies, City Index and IG Index, offer a range of financial markets.

For those wishing to speculate on the FTSE, foreign exchange markets or a range of commodities, spread betting provides a straightforward means of trading without broker's fees. This new way of betting has revolutionised wagering on sport. In a cricket match, every run scored can be vital to your financial position.

The ability to open and close trades in the middle of the event means that you need to keep a close eye on proceedings. At the start of each Test innings, a spread company will offer a market on the number of runs the batting side will achieve. If the initial "spread" is 280-300, you can choose to predict lower than 280 (selling) or higher than 300 (buying).

You choose to go lower than 280 (sell). The batting side collapses to 180 all out. You win the difference between 280 and 180 (or 100), multiplied by your stake.

If things had not gone to plan, and the batting side had reached a total of 500, you would lose the difference between 500 and 280 (220), again, multiplied by your stake.

This principle can be applied to a variety of sporting and financial markets - the number of corners in a football match, or the number of points the FTSE rises. In every case you are risking your stake on each occurrence of an event.

Setting up a trading account with one of the four UK companies requires proof that you have the means to cover conceivable losses. A vast range of markets is then available to trade instantly by phone. These may be on the great economic issues of the day, such as the euro, or the faintly

on how many times Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, would take a sip from his glass of water while giving the November Budget speech.

Spread betting can offer a means of hedging risk for companies. Where the strength of the pound affects a firm's export market, it is possible to set up a bedge against damaging currency fluctuations.

For many others, the spread betting companies simply offer an opportunity for private individuals to play the stock market with the big boys. The US has a culture of independent traders - individuals working from home with the aid of a PC (to track ridiculous. One company offered a market prices) and a trading account.

HOW SPREAD BETTING WORKS

TRADING ON THE EURO You think that the euro launch will be a success and the pound is in for a bumpy ride in the next few weeks. How would you spread bet on this opinion?

A spread company offers a quarterly market on the euro against sterling, closing on 12 March 1999. The previous days close was one euro = 7127. (Effectively 71.27p; decimal places are ignored).

• The company is offering a spread of 7076 - 7096.

You think the pound will lose value (it will require more sterling to buy one euro) so you make a buy trade at the quoted price of 7096 for a

On the 12 March the value of the pound has dropped and it now takes 7185 to buy one euro.

 Your gain is the difference between the final value and your buy price. (7185 minus 7096). This gives a total gain of 89.

Multiply this by your stake of £5. You win £445.

Undoubtedly the market for financial spread betting in the UK is growing as City traders open their own private accounts. Curiously, financial trading also appears to be popular, with a new breed of astute pensioners who are throwing off their gardening gloves in favour of the cut and thrust of the foreign exchange market.

Financial spread betting must come with a health warning. One client, who had a buy position during the October 1987 crash, was faced with a bill for £500,000. Spread betting debts are payable immediately and, unlike gambling debts, are recoverable by law.

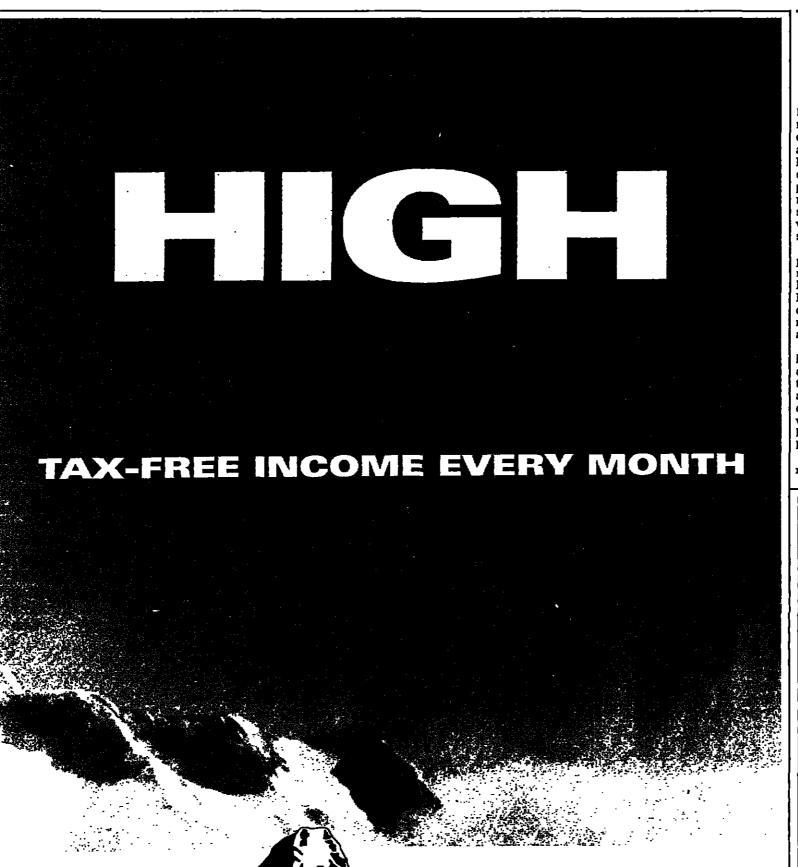
The massive gearing on spread bets is reflected in the emotional ups and downs of the account-holder. The realisation that a bet is about to yield an enormous profit can become linked with your own sense of self-esteem and intellectual prowess. When losses appear, the opposite is true. A serious unexpected loss may be accompanied by a degree of shock, developing into something resembling clinical depression. Whatever chinks lurk in the accountholder's psychological armour, spread betting is liable to expose them ruthlessly.

However, the excitement and drama that a spread bet create are unbeatable in any other form of speculation or investment. For those who are sure that they have information or knowledge that the spread companies have not considered, the rewards are there for the taking.

'Successful Spread Betting', by Geoff Harvey, is available from bookshops at £12.95. Independent readers may obtain a copy for only £9.95 post free (saving £3) from the publishers on 01423-507545







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Save for a baby break

Flexible mortgages may hold the key. By Ian Morse

NONE OF us grudge spending money on our children, but the cost of a baby break can hit hard at family finances. For many households, the single most expensive item of monthly expenditure is a mortgage payment. Having a home loan sufficiently flexible to help cope with this change in circumstance seems sensible. Women now account for 44

per cent of the workforce and more than one third of these have children aged under 16. Estimates vary, but the average cost per household of a ninemonth baby break has been put at £9,000. While recent changes in the

law guarantee a minimum level of both maternity leave and pay, this applies only to those who are employed. For those who change jobs more often (often women), do part-time work, or have been with an employer for less time, benefits can be small.

Traditional mortgages are rigidly structured, with no facil-

tion to saving for a baby break is to open a deposit account. But the interest you receive then is deposit are 5.5 per cent, falling taxpayer and just 3.3 per cent rate. Those rates are falling.

With current average mortgage rates at least 1.2 per cent higher, you will immediately earn by paying extra cash into a flexible mortgage. New flexible mortgages have come to over- and under-payments. mortgage Providers such as First Active. Legal & General, Virgin One and Standard Life have developed loans that allow you to overpay, then borrow back the surplus you have built up.

Simonne Gnessen, 33, works as an independent financial

ity for over-or under payment. adviser with Fiona Price & If you have one, the only solu- Partners, a London-based firm. She says: "Right now I'm thin!:ing about re-mortgaging. The key to good financial planning paid net of your marginal rate is to pick an option that meets of income tax. Average gross as many changes of circumreturns for £10,000 on 90 days stance as possible. I have to consider the possibility of havto 4.24 per cent for a basic rate ing children and any reduction in earnings resulting from this. for anyone paying the higher But I also have to think about unforeseen career changes, Gnessen adds.

"The benefits of flexibility save more interest than you can other types of mortgage, such as capped, fixed or discounted loans. These may be cheaper. but do not necessarily provide the market, some allowing both all the facilities of a flexible "Flexible loans can be ideal

for young high earners who have a basic salary with big bonuses. They can pay in bonuses now, then borrow back some of this later if needed. This could be very useful dur-

Surely your family is worth it?

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Having a family is wonderful. They bring you love and happiness. But they also you ever thought how they would cope if the worst should happen and you're no inger there to take care of the There is a simple and affordable way to help protect them now and secure neac of mind for yourself. Simply apply for the Friendly Assurance Plan fr

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*This is based on a female non-smoker aged 27.

HFS

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All the world's a store

hink again if talk of ethnic trends evokes images of colourful Indian bazaars and ageing hippies. And this time think big, think bold, think clutter-free karma. For, while ethnicity is clearly ruling the domestic roost, it has been born again as global minimalism

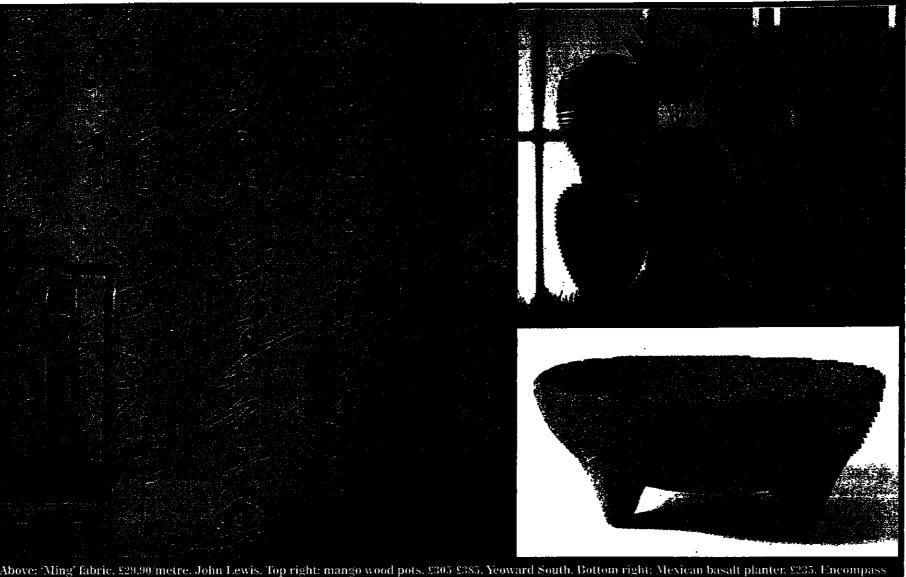
The new global chic is about beautiful pieces and a very modern look, Quiet and cultured, it is the ultimate in all that is calm, meditative and perfectly proportioned. Yet, as Michael Reeves (1998 International Interior Designer of the Year) reflects, it can be large in scale and is certainly not afraid to make dramatic statements via shape or colour.

In Reeves's South Kensington shop, African masks (£185), heavy wooden shanti stools (from £325), and Mogul shields (£720) provide highlights around modern sleek chairs (he's about to launch a collection in Joseph, Fulham Road) and imposing, in-laid cabinets.

"I love art deco, but 100 per cent art deco is dead," he says. "The whammy, wow factor comes from something old, ethnic or oriental. It's the eclectic mix and the scale of things that matters. I'm not one for Chinese. Oriental or African knickknacks. I use pieces for statements. anything ethnic that has a very strong shape."

Reeves opened his shop after realising that he spent most of his time scouting around trade fairs or antique markets for his interiors clients. Among his favourite pieces 3t the moment are Chinese hardwood chairs (£750), and aged wooden cartwheels which he mounts on wooden plinths with steel rods, and which are as effecive as any modern sculpture. At 2675 they are not cheap but, nevertheless, are in short supply. "I just went to Le dealer to buy another 10," says Reeves. "But I only managed to secure four as they've sold out so fast."

Contrasts - scale and texture, old and new – feature strongly in fellow interior designer William Yeoward's warehouse in Battersea. He's transormed it from an old wreck into a place where, he says, people would want to live.



Australia - and realised there was a lot in the world that was wonderful. So I started to import stuff. I love really good craftsmanship - bone, basketware, pottery - but often when I see good quality work, the design isn't what I'd chose, so I work with them. For example, in Indonesia the bottles are covered in the

finest wicker. But I'd decide to do

After working for others, like Tri- be the same in Cornwall: I'll change cia Guild, Yeoward decided to go it a mug into an umbrella stand. I'm alone: "I'd started travelling – Asia, not frightened of scale. It's a matter of twisting the elements and making them fit into the formula."

One of the advantages of shopping with a Yeoward or Reeves is that they help you organise disparate pieces into a harmonious whole. Simon Scott Ray, owner of Chichester-based Encompass Furniture and Accessories, doesn't do that. But his imports, hunted out from wicker lamps, tables or bases. It can Mexican villages and made using

indigenous skills (he studied and worked in Mexico and now spends many months there each year) have already been noticed by the likes of David Champion, Louis Vuitton and the General Trading Company.

"In Mexico, there's a different to knock back any idea that he might be exploiting people. "They're a respected class, revered for the traditional, beautiful things they make, turned into their own art form." He sells several different ranges:

by a Frenchman from sustainable footstool, or £1,035 a loveseat); sandcast aluminium furniture (from £1,189 for a table and four chairs), calada lamps (from £169) and handattitude to artisans" he says, anxious carved basalt sculptures (pestle and mortar £12, planter £165). "The artisans have taken the traditional pestle and mortar form, for which they are famous, a few steps further," explains Simon Scott Ray. "As they are non-porous, they're suitable for

latticed furniture, made in Mexico beautiful, minimalist interiors filled with lilies or orchids. Or as bird baths tropical hardwood (from £220 for a or sculptures outside." He also sells antique sweet moulds as candle holders (from £160). "If things look good together, they can be antique, Mexican, or Swedish - they all work for me," he adds.

This is the essence of Browns Living, the homewares extension to the designer fashion store, where Vietnamese crackled porcelain bowls (£18) and black lacquered plates (£45) are equally at home with Yeoward South: 0171-498 4811

woven Vietnamese chicken haskets (from £35) or African oak plates (£600). There are even cushions (£1,395) and bolsters (£850) made of antique Japanese kimonos. "We constantly have new things coming from all over the world - Europe, Middle East, Africa, America," says the manager, Guity Benjamin.

Finding beautiful products from around the world is certainly not a problem today. Country-specific shops, like the India Shop in Marlborough (mail order catalogue also available) or the more Indonesianbiased Ananda in Brighton, are springing up all across Britain. The Somerset-based Sala Design, for example, has a wonderful, diverse collection of contemporary African pieces, including bowls and jars made from Kenyan soapstone (from £8.95), sisal baskets (from £6.95) and milk jugs made from African old wood (from £24.95).

Many high street stores also have an excellent selection: John Lewis has Andrew Martin's striking fabrics, including Ming (£29.90 per metre) in a choice of rust red. caramel or eream with large black calligraphy (unfortunately, there's more style than substance as the words mean nothing); and handwoven Gabbeh rugs made by Iranian tribes. Designer's Guild has a selection of Japanese incense (from £27) and beautifully packaged Vietnamese rice bowls (£4.50) and teapots (£39).

Modern ethnic is modern chic. Wherever one looks, it will be there in some form. But, it's worth remembering that it only works when dipped into in an occasional, selective manner. The art is in spotting a beautiful piece (or two) from around the world that speaks volumes, but which is too modest to want to be the centre of attention at the household party.

Ananda: 01273 725307 Browns Living: 0171-514 0000 Designers Guild: 0171-351 5775 Encompass: 01256 862353 John Lewis: 0171-629 7711 for near-Michael Reeves: 0171-225 2501

Sala: 01935 827051 The India Shop: 01672 515585

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates mother problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An abvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then mber of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to

the very problem you want to discuss

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90. and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

SHOPTALK

YOU'VE WOKEN up to the ghastly realisation that it's Valentine's Day tomorrow, and although your lover professes not to subscribe to such commercial claptrap, an offering is needed to avert big-time sulking.

But what to get? Shopping experts from Tutler and Harrods have joined forces this year to offer succour at the Harrods Valentine Help Desk. Open from 10am-6pm, and located in the fine jewellery department on the ground floor, the Help Desk team will do their dammdest to suggest the perfect gift within your budget, however tricky your Valentine. They'll even

feed you chocolates while they quiz you as to your sweetheart's desire.

Their aim is to give you lots of original and innovative shopping advice. They won't just suggest champagne and flowers: they'll recommend the trendiest brands and the hippest flowers, or hot pink Prada lingerie, pure white linen sheets, or dinner for two delivered directly to your door.

You can phone the help desk (0171-730 1234) but unless you order something wildly extravagant – a grand piano, for instance – they won't be able to deliver in time for



SIX OF THE BEST

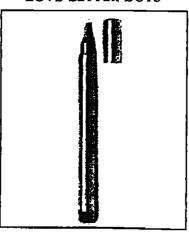
LOVE LETTER BUYS



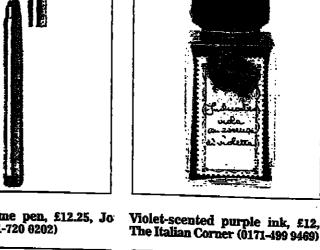
Love Letters, fruit jellies, £2.50, Habitat (0645 334 433)

David Hayward's silver inkwell,

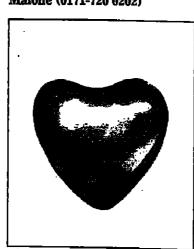
£149, The Room (0171-225 3225)



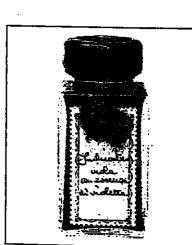
Silver perfume pen, £12.25, Jo



Malone (0171-720 0202)



Aluminium paperweight, £6.95, Ocean mail order (0870 848 4840)



The Italian Corner (0171-499 9469)



Glass inkwell and pen stopper, £70, Smythson (0171-629 8558)

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I WANT TO OWN... FOODIE GADGETS

A man's place is in the kitchen

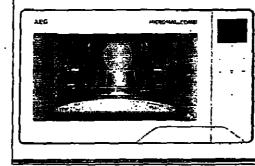
ored of the usual Crocodile Dundee famously said: round of Belgian truffles and candlelit restaurant meals? Worried that last year's gift of Agent Provocateur lingerie was considered to have been for your benefit rather than A Global ceramic knife sharpener hers? Can't get a reservation and/or a baby-sitter for love nor money? If something more traditional. Wusthof you answer in the affirmative to any or all of the above, then you may still blades with a black, abrasive-

lowing items, then you could always put your love to the test by sug-gesting the Pizza Hut Valentine's Day special.

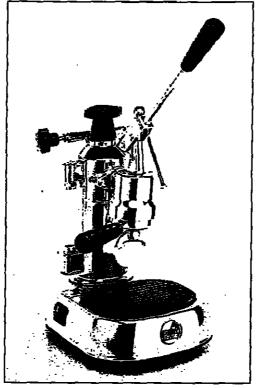
Look sharp Name: Global knife block and eightpiece knife set. -Price: £395.

Stockist: John Lewis (0171-629 7711 for nearest store).

Description: If onions had feelings. then they'd probably forgive you for skinning them alive with one of these razor sharp implements. Designed by Komin Yamada in 1985. each knife is created from a single piece of stainless steel: a tapered, spotty handle seamlessly merging into a finely honed blade. As



Two into one does go in the Micromat-combi 625, £495, AEG (01635 572 700)





Breville (0800 525 089)

This 60cm-wide stainless steel

beauty is conscientious tits Aquatech

cleaning system actively seeks out

and destroys food deposits), eco-

logically-considerate (it uses 14

litres of water per wash and has a

quick wash programme), and user-

friendly (the bottom basket includes

a foldable plate rack to make space

Anything else worth considering?

Smeg (01235 861 090) do a range of

neatly designed dishwashers. Their

stainless steel eight-programme

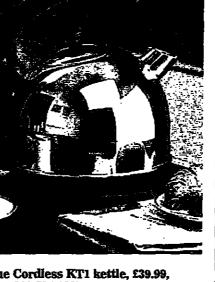
machine, the 60cm-wide DWF1

(£599) holds 12 place settings,

includes Aquastop flood protection,

for blackened casserole dishes).

Style: ****



employs an air fan condenser for

drying, and has nice chunky steel knobs. It's only let down by the fact that it's a gas-guzzler, using as much as 18 litres of water per wash.

Let them eat shrimps Name: Britannia SI-12TBF-SS

Price: £3,000 (plus £990 for a 120cm hood).

Stockist: 01253 471 111. Description: Indoor barbie! The five gas-burner hot plate on this 120cm cooker comes with an added extra: an electric lava stone barbecue, perfect for when you've wasted an entire box of strikes trying to light burning stuff on), while the fan-

To the right of the main, 90cm oven, is a small 30cm second oven, which has a rotisserie for spit-roasting. Or, if you're of the veggie persuasion, you can always use it for finishing off a Victoria sponge. What do you mean, you don't know how to make cakes? Didn't you learn anything

Style: *** Anything else worth considering? Smeg's 90cm dual-fuel, single fronted A1 cooker (£1,275, 01235 861 090) is a substantial machine. The hob has five gas-burners (including one for fish and an ultra-rapid one for

from King Alfred's incompetence?

element to make sure the food you've carbonised on top is at least defrosted in the middle. If that all sounds like too much hard work, then you can opt for a combination microwave/oven instead. AEG's 850watt Micromat-combi 625 (£495, 01635 572 700) looks good, and defrosts, microwaves and roasts.

THOSE LITTLE EXTRAS Don't forget the morning after: the best coffee and toast come courtesy of La Pavoni's Europiccola espresso maker (£360, 0171-722 7648) and Siemens Porsche-designed TT 9110

cool wall, two-slice toaster (£89,

your rusty one in the back garden. assisted electric oven has a bottom 01908 328 400). It's got 900 turbo charged watts under the bonne plus 11-stage browning control with LED indicators, and the capacity to hold bread up to a satisfying doorstop thickness of 34mm. For those preferring a cup of

Earl Grey to start the day, there are several good stainless steel kettle on the market. The best bargain i Breville's Classique Cordless KT (£39.99, 0800 525 089), which holds 3. pints of water, has a removable filter, a concealed element and tasteful green on-off button.

Shaun Phillips Deputy Editor ZM Magazine



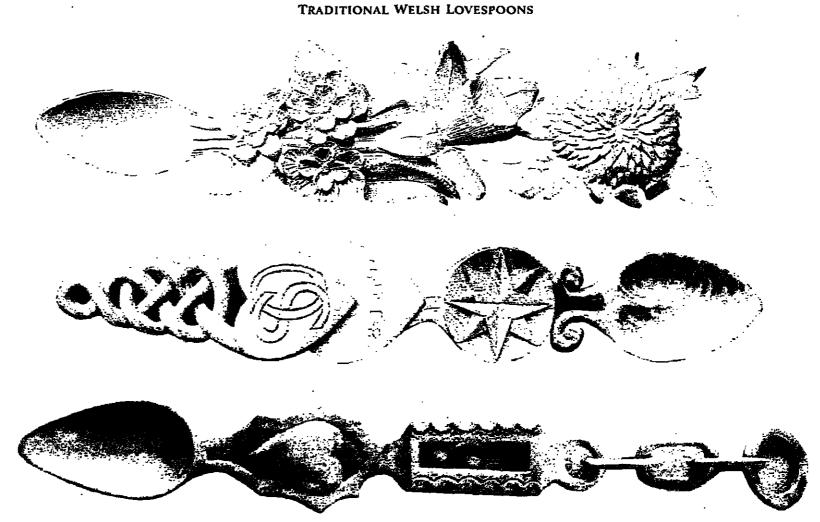
LOVERS HAVE given each other wooden love tokens since ancient times. In Wales these were often in the form of wooden cawl (soup) spoons. Young men in rural areas carved them to give to women as a prelude to courtship: they were illiterate, so the spoons were their love letters. The designs were often copied from the pewter and silver spoons used by the gentry. When a woman accepted a lovespoon, she would hang it over the mantelpiece for all to see.

During the 17th century, Welsh lovespoons became more elaborate, incorporating initials, dates and symbols. The handle was developed at the expense of the bowl to make more room for the curver to show off his skills and demonstrate the depth of his desire. Some spoons had two bowls, meaning "we two are one". Common symbols included a heart representing love; a wheel promising "I will work for you"; a key for "my house is yours"; or an anchor meaning "I want to stay". Celtic designs, with their unbroken, stylised lines carved in relief representing eternal love, or souls entwined for eternity, appear frequently.

These antique lovespoons are rarely sold on the open market, but sometimes can be found at auction. Mark Stephen of Sotheby's says about 30 to 40 spoons a year come up for auction across the country, and cost from

£400 to £3,000. Alternatively, you can buy one-off, handcrafted contemporary spoons. Lovespoon making is undergoing something of a revival. with makers like Arthur Llewellin Thomas, and Peter and Lynnette Coupland, designing and carving spoons to commission (from

£40 to £600). Arthur Thomas started making lovespoons in his Cardiff workshop 25 years ago, after visitors from Australia said they would like an individually designed spoon. He uses traditional timbers, mainly sycamore and



Lovespoons by Arthur Liewellin Thomas (top and centre, 01222 341 706) and Peter and Lynnette Coupland (bottom, 01656 659 264)

fruit woods. One of Mr Thomas's favourite commissions is an anniversary spoon, which took two weeks to make from one piece o pale lime wood: "It has six chain links rep resenting 60 years, two balls in a cage for the happy couple wrapped or trapped in love, and a wild rose on the front. My little joke was to put a thorn in the side."

When you buy a handmade lovespoon

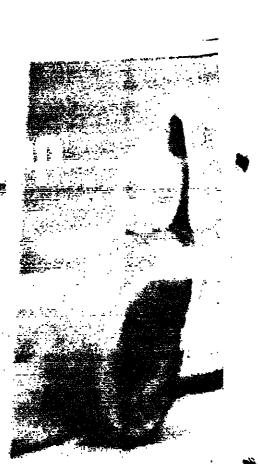
make sure it is the genuine article by looking at the shape. It should be curved in profile like a metal spoon and is usually carved or the back. Batch-produced souvenir lovespoons are flat-backed to enable machines to cut them out before they are finished by hand. Castle Crafts in Cardiff and the Lovespoon Gallery in Mumbles sel these spoons (starting at £3) as well as commissioned spoons.

Visit the Museum of Welsh Life in St Fagan's, just outside Cardiff. if you want to check out one of the best collections of an tique lovespoons. It includes the oldesi known lovespoon, which is dated 1667. No bigger than a modern dessert spoon, it has a hollowed-out handle with six free-floating carved wooden balls and has developed a rich mellow patina through 300 years of handling.

In Welsh folklore, the balls symbolise the number of children the suitor hopes for So if you receive a copy of this spoon on Valentine's Day (£120, from the museum shop), you know where his spooning might end. JILLY ALLENBY

Castle Welsh Crafts, Cardiff (01222 343 038); The Lovespoon Gallery, Mumbles (01792 3601321; Museum of Welsh Life (01222 573 500). Antique spoons: Sotheby's (01403 833 500); Avon Autiques, Bradford on Avon (01225 862052). Spoon makers: Arthur Llewellin Thomas. Cardiff (01222 341 706); Peter and Lynnette Coupland, Bridgend







"Now this is a knife." The polished

steel block contains eight of them.

including a flexible 15cm utility

knife, a 20cm cook's knife and a 22cm

Anything else worth considering?

(£59) to keep the blades fresh. For

Trident knives combine old school

thing made of pure stainless steel. Meyer's Professional range (£48 for

a 20cm saucepan and lid, from

Heal's, 0171-636 1666) are not only

stylish, but are also dishwasher

safe, essential for the modern man's

Name: Siemens SE 25530 Dish-

Description: It may be hellish to

keep clean and scratch-free, but

since when have you taken such ob-

vious domestic considerations into account before making a purchase?

culinary requirements.

Stockist: 01908 328 400.

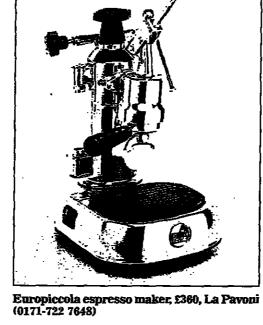
The dirty dozen

washer.

Price: £699.

bread knife.

Style: ****





Forget Delia's omelette pan – these seriously sturdy Cuprinox copper pans are for real men, ICTC (01603 488 01:

Cook up a storm with the SI-12TBF-SS Barbecue, £3,000, Britannia (01253 471 111)

The BMW M Coupe is the nearest thing to an E-type since the E-type. By Gavin Green

E-type? After all. Rover bas new Mini (on sale in 2000) and VW has given us its new Beetle. When is that other great, seminal car of the Sixties going to get revivified, redesigned and relaunched? No matter what Jaguar may be planning and the Coventry manufacturer is refusing to confirm whether it's working on such a vehicle - there is already a car that fits the bill. It is the BMW M Coupé.

¥THE INDEPENDENT ROAD TEST

In many ways, it is like the hardtop coupé version of the E-type which sold better than the convertible. Its styling is all trousers. Or, to put it in a car context, it is all long bonnet, short cabin, short tail. The body is like a giant cowling for the engine, with exiguous cabin thrown in for free. It even drives like an E-type - powered by a hugely gutsy, big, straight-six engine, which gives monstrous power when commanded. Yet the steering is rather vague, and the ride is so firm that. on occasion, you can really feel broken Tarmac kicking your backside. Also, you drive behind that long, long bonnet - just as with an E-type. You feel you're riding a missile as much as driving a car.

The cockpit, too, is rather cobbled together, without that homogenous feel of a mass-made, carefully conceived, beautifully hewn BMW 3series or 5-series.

The pull-out headlamp switch is straight out of the Sixties. However, the pedals are grouped far too close together, so that those who are big of foot will find the M Coupé rather hard to drive. And the steering wheel is incongruously big, which doesn't help the steering feel, and underlines the view that you're driving a modern iteration of a classic car, as opposed to a brand-new 1999 supercar.

As for carrying space, there is virtually none. Just a small hatchback boot. There is no back seat. However, this is no car for carrying; it is a car for driving. And what huge fun it is to punt along a winding Broad! The 3.2-litre straight six, borrowed from the M3, is one of the abrupt tail. It is not a beautiful car. is such a car It is a testament to the plank of steel hugely increases the more logical than most other toys.



The M coupé: BMW's answer to the E-type - 'you feel as it you are riding a missile, not driving'

Make, model and price:

Engine: 3201cc, straight-six

engine, 24 valves, 321bhp at

Performance: Maximum speed

155mph (governed), 0-60mph in 4.8 seconds, 25mpg.

driven few cars that have turned

of its great appeals. European car

manufacturers are going through a

terribly sensible, self-righteous

phase just now. There are few

"hero" cars - madcap machines

make little sense. But the M Coupé

Its unconventionality is also one

BMW M Coupe £40,595.

Transmission: Five-

rear-wheel drive.

heads faster.

speed manual gearbox,

tick-over to well over 7.000rpm with sublime ease and inspirational musical accompaniment. And yet this is a vehicle that can tootle along as gently as the most nondescript hatchback.

Bury the throttle, at any moment. and the car's mien will be transmogrified. One kick of the accelerator pedal is enough to stir the devil. And what acceleration! Going from 0-60mph in less than five seconds makes the M Coupé the fastest-accelerating BMW of them all. The action doesn't stop until a limiter spoils the fun at 155mph. This is an outrageously fast car.

In fact it is an outrageous car, period. It looks disjointed, unnatural and small - apart from that long nose - with wide wings covering huge wheels and tyres that look too

big for the body. It has a graceful front, identical to that of the Z3 roadster, which gives that make you feel good, even if they way - aft of the roof - to a stumpy, world's great motors. It can rev from But it is a very striking car. I have go-it-alone bravery of BMW as much car's torsional stiffness, greatly But what a toy!

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

Lotus Esprit GT3 £40,125. Midengined plastic-bodied British star, Fast and handles well, but lacks the quality of the BMW and isn't as exciting to drive. Mitsubishi 3000GT £45,800. Hugely competent but strangely anodyne car. Great for highspeed blasts across country, but

as it is to BMW's engineers for being able to produce such an excitingly individualistic machine.

And if you fancy a roadster version, to bring us back to the E-type analogy, BMW can oblige. The M Roadster version is the same price, and mechanically identical. How-Replacing the soft-top roof with a big

no real fun for the driver. Nissan Skyline GTR £50,000. Nissan unlike any other. Awesomely fast, outstandingly capable, incredibly high-tech. One of the world's great cars. TVR Cerbera 4.2 V8 £41,100. Rather BMW-like in manners and design, but far more handsome. Mind you, quality is not up to BMW standards.

improving handling and road behaviour. Besides, there is something far more individual about the coupé. There are many other small, fast convertibles. But there are no other modern high-performance coupés quite like this one. It makes no sense. But how it plays with your ever, the M Coupé is the better car. senses - serenading you, charming you. It is like a big toy, and it is no

Like a Ferrari in a Savile Row suit

A saloon that performs like a supercar, the BMW M series is a superb second-hand buy. By James Ruppert

but not all BMWs are equal. We all know that there are small, medium and large BMWs, but if you bothered to look more closely at the badge on the boot, you might also spot a subtle M logo. That M stands for Motorsport and it is BMW's premium performance brand which makes models that already have an enviable reputation for brilliant performance and handling, even more exciting.

Side, by side, apart from a lower stance and wider alloy wheels, an M series and a common-or-garden 3. or 5 series may look similar. However, open the bonnet, or put the Mseries car on a ramp and what you will see is a radically reworked beast. An M series BMW is nothing less than a road legal racing car.

No wonder BMW and sports-car enthusiasts all over the world get ex-

cited by the very mention of the letter M. It stands for superlative build quality, uncompromising performance and serious understatement. It is the perfect combination and as a used-car prospect, a very affordable and hugely desirable package.

The M story started in the early Seventies, when the newly formed Motorsport division began work on a lightweight coupe for the road and competition. The result was the aluminium-panelled, 200bhp CSL in 1972, which showed the direction the company was going in.

However, the first BMW to wear the M badge could not have been more unlike the subtle saloons that were to make the marque's reputation. The M1 had an Italian-designed body, an engine in the middle and like any self-respecting 165mph supercar, only seated two. Its six-

to power legendary and more af- car to qualify for international racfordable M-series models such as the M5 and M635CSL

Enthusiasts believe that the first true Motorsport product was a 5-series saloon, the M5 in 1986. With the engine from the M1 in a discreet and very sober four-door body it was an astonishingly quick yet subtle car. Putting that engine in the 635 coupé gave the marque a much higher pro-file. For many though, the best M series of all was the M3 in 1986.

The M3 looked similar to the standard two-door saloon, but just about everything else was different, from the body panels, to the suspension and race tuned 2.3 litre, 16valve engine, which delivered a top speed of 150mph.

Available only in left-hand drive it nevertheless appealed to buyers

cylinder, 24-valve engine would go on who wanted a specifically produced ing, which it went on to dominate. Other Ms followed. Convertibles, new model M5s in 1990 and M3s in 1993, although neither had the same

> raw character as the early models. More recently the Z3 has received the M treatment and got a mixed reception. Yet M-series models remain as popular as ever

> To truly understand the appeal of the M series it is important to pay visit to Europe's leading specialist, Munich Legends, surprisingly enough located in Sussex. Outside of BMW's own museum in Munich, you won't see more race and championship-winning M cars.

Tony Halse has been dealing in M series cars for 10 years. "What people like are the sensible running costs and the Germanic build quality. The best description I've ever heard was that these cars are Ferraris in a Savile Row suit. Buyers are enthusiasts and that is the key thing. My customers can have fun at a track day on Sunday, then use it on the school run on Monday."

According to Halse the first M5 is the rarest (just 187 in right-hand drive) and most fun. Original M3s are an icon and a true driver's car. You can buy M3s for as little as £6,000 to £8,000. Many are recent imports from Europe and not all are as pristine as they could be. A full service history, accident free and engineer-inspected M series is the only safe way to buy.

I would defy any car enthusiast to see and drive a BMW M series like these without being seriously tempted to write out a cheque. Munich Legends 01825 740456

The Mini still has a role in Rover's future

THIS YEAR, the Mini, Rover's greatest-ever car (and probably Britain's alltime best) turns 40. This year, if we believe what we've been reading and hearing. Rover may cease to exist as a car-maker. It's not exactly the commemorative gift that the Mini's creator, the late Sir Alec Issigonis, would have wished for.

Then again, neither would Sir Alec have wished his week or so. Bernd Pischetsrieder was BMW's chairman until eight days ago. I once asked Pischetsrieder what he

remembered of his cousin (his grandmother and Sir Alec's mother were sisters). "I remember he took me through a disgustingly dirty

British car factory," he told

me. "I vowed at the time that I didn't want to work in the car business. Now, finally, Pischetsrieder has got his wish.

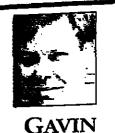
In some ways, the Mini encompasses many of Rover's biggest problems. It's made at Longbridge, Rover's largest and now, as i always has been, its most controversial factory. It was a radical new design when it was first launched, begetting the trend to small, frontwheel-drive, transverseengined cars - now these things are the industry norm. Yet it was never a greatly profitable model.

Radical Rovers have a history of winning praise, but not bringing in many pounds. Nowadays, however, the Mini is very old and very inadequate. It soldiers on because of the world's nostalgic view of anything British and ancient. Had the Mini been American, it would have died in about 1963. (Mind you, had the Mini been American, it also would have had a V8 engine and been

20ft long.) The Mini is also a strong reminder of just how trendsetting Rover - or BMC, as it was known at the time - was. back in the Fifties and Sixties. Can you imagine Rover nowadays setting the template for future car design and innovation? It would be just as inconceivable as Austin Reed

going Cool Britannia Rover's brief, from BMW. is now to make stately, conservative, genteel motor cars for conservative, genteel people. There is nothing wrong with this future direction, and it ties in precisely with Germany's general view of Britain's motor industry as Museum Motors Plc. Or rather, Museum Motors

Aktiengesellschaft – because apart from Jaguar, Aston Martin and Lotus, the Germans own every great British motoring brand (Rover, Austin, Morris, MG, Mini, Land Rover, Range Rover, Rolls-Royce, Bentley and many more). Somehow,



GAVIN GREEN

The Mini nowadays is old and inadequate, but wretched time over the past it soldiers on because of the world's nostalgic view of anything British and ancient

> though, it felt a bit better when Alec Issigonis's cousin was in charge of most of these firms.

I am very sad that Pischetsrieder has gone. He was charming, friendly, helpful and a thoroughly decent chap. He chainsmoked Marlboros, cracked lots of jokes and never acted self-importantly in any way. He always tagged himself as a Bavarian rather than a German. "Munich is closer to Milan than to Berlin," was one of his favourite sayings.

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He was also a romantic, which is probably not exactly an ideal quality for the boss of a booming multinational car company.

His public pronouncements on reviving Riley as a brand name were as eccentric as they were misguided. Riley is about as relevant to anyone, in 1999, as mangles and co-

respondent shoes. Yet Pischetsrieder clearly had a fine business mind to balance his Anglophile eccentricities. He outmanoeuvred the VW boss Ferdinand Piech - the grandson of Ferdinand Porsche (who said the car business isn't a family affair?) - to buy Rolls-Royce. He set up a successful plant in lowcost South Carolina and oversaw a wave of brilliant BMW cars.

Pischetsrieder used these skills to help make BMW arguably the strongest car brand in the world, after Mercedes-Benz.

His decision to buy Rover may also be vindicated, in the long term. BMW shareholders must realise that, however much they hate to admit it, they need Rover. If Rover goes, it takes BMW. or at least, an independent BMW - with it. The Bavarian manufacturer would be a motoring minnow again, and would soon be snapped up by General Motors or Ford or VW or Fiat.

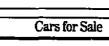
Besides, some good news may be just around the corner. The new Mini is just over a year away from market. Its job, at least in part, is to save Britain's biggest car-maker. If successful, its legacy may well be even greater than that of its predecessor.

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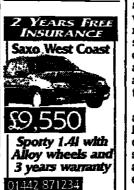
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MY WORST CAR

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My dicey banger was jinxed

THE MINI Metro I ran at university was not only my worst, but also my unluckiest car. My sister christened it the blue helmet and made me a huge pair of fluffy dice which hit me full in the face every time I braked. On one occasion when it

was snowing I got a flat tyre and had to stop. I was standing there kicking the wheel when out of the corner of my eye I saw a car on a collision course with mine. It happened in slow motion as the car rammed the side of mine. I'll never forget the driver because he had one arm and rotten teeth. His insurance turned out to be bogus, so the damage never got repaired.

I once made my grandfather a meal and took it around to his house. Unfortunately a carton of cream spilt all over the back seats. From that day on it always smelled of puke. Whatever I did to try and clean it off



A pristine example of the Mini Metro

never worked. Even in the coldest weather I had to have the window wide open to help get rid of the smell.

My unluckiest experience with the Metro involved a very important interview and being late. I was due at Deansgate in

Manchester and I could see where I wanted to go, but never quite got there. Eventually my

a witness, blurted out, "I'm sorry", left the Metro where it was, then ran to the interview. At Granada Television I broke down, cried my eyes out, failed the interview, ran back to the car, met the police, got a fine and points on my licence and generally had a bad day.

found out just how bad my

My mother always told me to

get the name and number of a

witness to an accident, al-

though she neglected to add

that this would be a bad idea if

the crash was my fault. I found

brakes were. I had a crash

That Metro was reliable, but very unlucky. I abandoned it in my garden and let it go quietly to car heaven.

way ahead was blocked by a Ailsa Greenhalgh presents lorry parked right across the the travel show. Was it Good road. In complete frustration I for You?" on Channel 5 on put the Metro in reverse, and Fridays at 8pm. She was when I got to a crossroads speaking to James Ruppert

Paying for a life of grime

There are dangerous people out there -DIY enthusiasts trying to boost the

value of their homes. By Penny Jackson

be nailing shelves to the wall before you can draw breath. No one can accuse the British of a lack of enthusiasm when it comes to DIY home repairs, but they may be a little wanting on the quality front if the evidence of a television programme broadcast by ITV last week is anything to go by.

Collapsing walls, sloping shelves and years of little progress dogged the worst of the "Do it Yourselfers" who amazingly still managed to show real pride in their work despite its dubious execution. All this is fine, of course, if the DIYers stay put, but rather more worrying if they decide to sell and a buyer isn't in on the secret.

David McKenna, who runs a building company in Bromley, Kent, has become suspicious of the number of jobs carried out by what he is told are cowboy builders who have done a bunk. "One look at the dodgy tools lying around and it's a reasonable guess that it was, in fact, the owner who messed up the job. Doors are always being hung upside down, and I've seen new openings for windows propped up with bits of wood because nobody thought to put in lintels."

But at least he is called in to put things right. The buyers of a huge, newly converted Victorian house in south-east London will not be so lucky. "The owner works in the theatre but has done all the work himself. It is horrendous. Nothing has been done properly, but the worst of it is that. floors sanded, it will fool anyone who

doesn't get beneath the surface."

how some people a I counted 30 on one wall. People will hammer and they will spend a fortune on materials and spend a fortune on materials and then build a wall that looks like the leaning tower of Pisa."

Jokes about DIY enthusiasts have worn a bit thin for Jane Grant. She has become familiar with pretty well every builder's merchant in the Derby area over the past two years as well as the sight of her husband Rod on his hands and knees cursing at some pipe or wire. They took on the challenge of converting vast old offices into a family home and between them have tackled every job, apart from the damp-proofing. "We must be bonkers. It has taken over our lives because every moment we are not at our jobs we are working on the house. At the beginning the prospect of turning

'Owners blame cowboy builders who have done a bunk. But one look and you know they did it'

something special was very exciting, but since then we have had sleepless nights. We've been tired, fed up and ended up arguing. Our three children are used to coming home from school to chaos and we haven't had a holiday for four years.'

She lives not a million miles from some of the DIYers featured in the FTV layers of paint." husband's workmanship is in a higher league. "Even so, he is self-taught, so Some of the construction work he tends to come back from the pub McKenna sees beggars belief. "At the with instructions from an electrician moment I am spending every day look- drawn on the back of a cigarette ing at an appalling extension built by packet. It can take a whole day to get the owner. Someone must have told one light to work. I do the rushing him he needed air bricks for a flat roof, around and spend hours in plumber's but instead of using a couple each side merchants trying to describe what sort he has used them all the way round. of pipe we need. The hardest lessons



somewhere with loads of space into Jane and Rod Grant in their Derby home: 'It has taken over our lives'

are that everything costs far more than you imagine, and you have to finish one job before starting on the next, however tempting it is to start on the fun things. But there have been wonderful moments, such as discovering a lovely marble fireplace under

ticularly popular with DIYers, with a terrific demand for unmodernised houses, according to Chris Brown of Boxall Brown & Jones, But he warns buvers that the Grants' experience is all too common. "It is hard to price a iob if you are not sure what is involved and so you have to be prepared to spend up to 50 per cent more than you had anticipated," he says.

Fear of injury or worse deters most people from tackling plumbing and electrical jobs, but cosmetic work can be done better than by some in the trade. Many of the time-consuming and costly restoration jobs can be done gradually and to enormous effect handiwork that genuinely impresses. different from the equivalent in the home of the man who is always tinkering with his car. Henry Woods, of

managed to change the lead pipes. nails. The couple were doing it up to In residential areas where property values have risen quickly in a short sell. Needless to say it didn't.'

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time, there is a temptation for people to become investor/builders overnight. The advice from agents is that thorough checks should be made on such places before buying. They may appear perfect, with paint sparkling, but that's of little comfort if you get an electric shock every time that you take ularly ripe territory for London's DIY entrepreneurs, says Mr Woods. "I walked into one flat to find a man holdthe London estate agents Douglas & ing an enormous saw designed for cut-Gordon, says that, although some ting logs. He was trying to cut a thin ply-and-Formica top with it. The whole owners never stop "improving" their kitchen was terrible, a complete disproperty, after 20 years they haven't aster and held together roughly with

STEPPING STONES

ONE COUPLE'S PROPERTY STORY



Friends thought we were mad to buy' - Mandy and Syd

MANDY EVANS, a TV producer, and her partner Svd - who have bought three properties since 1984 - were the first of their neers to buy, but were surprised at friends' reactions, "One said: 'You're really stupid.' They thought we were mad," Mandy remembers.

However, their only alternative was a squalid rented flat in Hackney; and Mandy believes that their backgrounds also influenced them: "Our parents had bought, so we thought we should." She admits to a certain narvety about the process: "We were told we could borrow up to £50,000 but we didn't dare: it seemed such a lot of money at the time."

They viewed only two properties and plumped for the second, a converted, ground-floor two-bedroom flat. overlooking Hackney's main road, which cost £38.000. The flat, in a listed building, had certain advantages: "It was close to friends and the Hower market and near a good pub and fish-and-chip shop. There was even a bingo club if I got desperate." Mandy recalls.

The couple lived there for six years but found the community feeling starting to fade: "We were burgled and my car was broken into of the disco-pubs.' Finally, a combination of

the flower market's popularity – "you couldn't move on Sunday mornings" - and the mugging of nurses living next door prompted Mandy and Syd to move. They sold their

flat for £87,000, "to a reporter from The Sun, which made it even better." and moved to Blackheath. This time they viewed at least 70 properties before settling on a huge top-floor flat in a semi-detached house built in 1790. The property, uninhabited since the great storm of 1987, still bore the sears: "The roof tiles were ripped off and it had flooded. Our friend insisted that a huge stain on the carpet was the

result of a murder." In 1990 they paid £94,000 for the flat, which they loved for its "four big. square rooms".

In 1996 they decided on a second home in the "forgotten" resort of Broadstairs. They paid £39,000 for a two-bedroom flat on the top two floors of a house built in 1800. They now enjoy the benefits of a London flat and a coastal retreat: "It's stretched us, and the dying ferry industry means prices have not risen, but it's worth it." GINETTA VEDRICKAS

Those moves in brief.,

1984 - bought Hackney flat for £38,000, sold for £87,000. 1990 - bought Blackheath flat for £94,000, now worth around £160,000. 1997 - bought second home in Broadstairs for £39.000.

If you would like your moves featured, write to: Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones. The Independent. 1 Canada Sq, London E14 5DL. A prize of £100 will be awarded for the best story published before 31 March

To Let

What price paradise?

The Caribbean is the latest hotspot for holiday homes. By Mary Wilson

FUNNY ISN'T it, the way the notion of a sun-drenched Caribbean beach shaded by palm trees becomes more inviting during the course of a freezing British winter? Perhaps not. The chain of islands that makes up the West Indies stretches from Florida right down to Venezuela, offering varying destinations from the vibrantly colourful to the restfully laid-back. As it becomes easier and

cheaper to get there - it is now ossible to fly for as little as £250 high-quality estates are being eveloped on a number of the islands. Buying early into one of these could be a very good investment indeed, with a ready-made strong rental market and rising values We originally bought at

Royal Westmoreland, a development in Barbados, because of the good climate and great infrastructure," says one of the development's home-owners. Since making our investment less than two-and-a-half years ago, our capital appreciation has increased by more than 70 per cent - or a staggering \$1m over rental returns.

Barbados, the most easterly of the islands, has two excellent developments, one of which is based around an 18-hole golf course and another that is set around a man-made lagoon th apartments and villas Aght on the water, with their own moorings.

Royal Westmoreland, on the west coast, is a 500-acre resort where around 280 villas and apartments are being built. Of these, about 100 are completed, nd 11 of the latest development 55 detached and semithree-bedroom are guaranteed to be

the millennium. piect continues to managed, so that



Villa thriller: the Royal Westmoreland, in Barbados

no building work is carried out Harry Manning, of Harry beside completed homes - and, by the end of next year, the majority will be quiet and free from construction," says Giles Rooney, the sales and marketing director

The resort has a health and leisure club, a children's club, a bar and a restaurant, tennis courts and swimming-pools. Prices range from \$600,000 (about £375,000) for a twobedroom villa to \$1,500,000 for a five-bedroom farway home

with swimming pool.

Port St Charles, near Speightstown, is further north. Phases one and two are already built and sold, and 20-or-so people are already regularly using their homes. A total of 114 waterfront apartments and townhouses are being constructed, some of which are on an island in the lagoon. This is where the restaurant and bar, due to open in June, will be situated: there will also be two

tennis courts and a gym. "The majority of our foreign owners are English, with the others being a mixture of Canadian, Italian. American Manning Associates, the local agent. There are also British agents, in the form of Humberts and Christopher Scott. Prices range from \$345,000 for a onebedroom lagoon-front apartment to \$6,500,000 for a

four-bedroom beach-front villa. The most southerly islands are Tobago and Trinidad, only a few miles from the South American coast and out of the hurricane path. Tobago is the quieter of the two - Trinidadians go there to "chill out".

Much of the 20-mile-long island is hilly and covered with rainforest - a beautiful unspoilt place with idyllic beaches, some hardly used. Tobago has some of the best diving in the world, and developers are encouraged to protect this valuable asset. On the south-western side.

the development of the 750-acre Lowlands Estate is under way. This is near the capital, Scarborough, and the airport, and boasts its own long, wide, sandy beach. Prices start at about £100,000 for a plot of land and £77,000 for a four-bedroom single-storey villa. A much and, of course, locals," says larger, four-to-five-bedroom

two-storey villa would cost £180,000, with the plot costing about £130,000.

"We expect there to be serious rental potential for these properties," comments Charles ston-Baker, of the agents FPD Savills, which is inviting offers for the development. A five-star Hilton hotel and the first show villas will be ready in November, as will the golf course; about 60 apartments and 40 plots have already been sold to Trinidadians.

The prettiest part of Tobago is in the north, and this is where the King's Bay Estate development is. Among the 600 acres of cocoa, paim and immortal trees, a small number of villas will be built, all with stunning views over the bay. In the first phase, there will be 25 large two-storey villas, all in plots of three-quarters of an acre.

The Great House, an old plantation house, is to be converted into a five-star restaurant; and down by the beach there will be a few cotes, which will form the hotel, with a beach bar and a restaurant. There will also be tennis courts, diving facilities, a ninehole golf course and riding. Work starts on 1 April (really), and a show house will be ready by August. The Prestige Property Group, the sole agent in Britain is selling the first phase for £225,000 to £325,000.

The Tobago developments will be shown at the International Property Show (01420 520777), today and tomorrow at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Royal Westmoreland: 0171-292 5000: Prestige Property Group: 01935 825770; FPD Savills: 0171-408 5517; Harry Manning Assocs: 00 1 246 424 2661; Christopher Scott. 01983 721777; Humberts: 0171-629 0909

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HOT SPOT

VICTORIA PARK, EAST LONDON

A tale of Victorian values

dam Kay is a hus-band, a father and a triathlete. When he was scouring Bethnal Green for a flat, however, it was the last of these categories which proved the most influential - and St Agnes Close, off Gore Road, near Victoria Park fitted the bill.

A 300 acre park was yards from his front door the City was just 10 minutes by bicycle, and the flat appealed for other reasons, too.

It is in a modern block that was specifically designed to maximise light, heat and privacy, and his freeholder doesn't bicker over repairs or otherwise exploit the tenants.

His property is one of many in the area owned by the Crown Estate. "I definitely have the best landlady in the country," says Mr Kay.

Marriage, a baby and a move to suburbia revealed that Victoria Park was also a good investment: "I paid £60,000 in 1995, Last year it was re-evaluated for mortgage pur-

poses at £95,000," says Mr Kay. Most London parks are bor-dered by residential roads.

HACKNEY

which extends from South Hackney into Tower Hamlets just east of Bethnal Green, has limited park-side housing, but there are compensations: two canals border the park. bringing waterside properties and warehouse conversions into the picture.

Just across the park, Well Street Common is encircled by handsome park-side homes. Victoria Park was a neglected, vandalised wreck in the Seventies and early Eighties, until Tower Hamlets council spruced it up. Private housing. where council estates used to be, further enhanced the qual-

ity of the area. "Kingshold estate was the worst, and it and some other The boot-shaped Victoria Park, bad ones came down," notes

Philip Castle, a director of Sovereign House estate agents. "Lauriston School is a highly regarded state secondary school," he adds, noting that the young professionals who are attracted to the area because of its proximity to the City include families as well as singles.

"But Victorian houses are scarce and expensive, usually available only when the occupier dies and the Crown Estate sells them off." The best Victorian houses

can sell for more than £300,000, but flats are much cheaper: "The older properties are more fashionable and expensive, but generally one-bedroom conversions sell for £60,000-£70,000, and two bedrooms jump to £110,000," declares Mr Castle. "Parkside is a nice local authority estate. Two- and three-bedroom flats are available there in the £55,000-£65,000 range."

At the eastern edge of the nark Cadogan Terrace backs on to a motorway, but even in this location £300,000 might not be enough to buy a large

family house.



ROBERT LIEBMAN The best Victorian houses in the Victoria Park region sell for more than £300,000

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: A three-bedroom loft in a converted warehouse overlooking the canal and Victoria Park is available at £145,000 at Keatons estate agents. Similar money can buy a three-bedroom freehold house (£140,000), while an additional £35,000 buys a two-bedroom flat occupying the upper two storeys of a Victorian house. In mid-March, Copthorn is releasing the third phase of Victoria Place at New

Kingshold. Estate agents Sovereign will have price and other information on the two-, three-, and four-bedroom houses and two-bedroom flats.

Transport: The overall area is served by the Underground (Bethnal Green and Mile End Central Line stations are in zone two) or the overground (Cambridge Heath, Bethnal Green, Homerton and Hackney Wick stations). The motorway adjacent to

Cadogan Terrace is the A102(M) for Biackwall Tunnel.

Shopping and dining: Well Street has a supermarket and popular outdoor market, and Victoria Park Village has trendy boutiques and restaurants. Mare Street, Hackney, is a bustling high street.

The park: Victoria Park has a running track and changing rooms, ten-nis courts, fishing, pitches for cricket,

hockey football and softball, playgrounds, a deer enclosure, an Old English Garden and a One O'Clock Club. The park's interesting history is related in the handsome park commercial premises. brochure (available on 0171-364 4951 from Crown Estates; Internet address: http://www.crownestate.co.uk): "Property owned by the sovereign of

almost 1,000 years." The park properties were purchased mainly between 1842 and 1845 and include 611 residences, public houses and other

Council tax: Hackney charges more than Tower Hamlets: respective charges are £526 and £439 for Band A and £1,579 and £1,318 for Band H. the United Kingdom in right of the Estate agents: Keatons: 0181-981 Crown' with origins dating back 7788; Sovereign House: 0181-985 5800.

Development

THREE TO VIEW

COUNTRY COTTAGES UNDER £100,000

TAKE YOUR pick: £97,500 will buy a garage in Chelsea, but it could also get you The Hollies. a three-bedroom. Victorian terraced cottage in a small hamlet near the River



Severn in Gloucestershire. Riverbank walks are just a few minutes away from the brick cottage, which has views across open countryside. Shops and pubs are in the nearby villages of Saul and Frampton-on-Severn. The cottage has a sitting/dining room (originally two rooms) with a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and Parkray multifuel stove. There is a kitchen diner with built-in Neff hob/cooker, downstairs loo and upstairs bathroom. Details from Murrays (01453 755552).

ALTERNATIVELY, £85,000 will buy Plumbers Cottage, a Grade II listed, one-bedroom, end-of-terrace house in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. Almost 300 years old, it forms part of a yard which was



converted into homes and has a small private garden. along with use of a larger communal garden. Six miles from Bishop's Stortford and the mainline station to Liverpool Street (about 40 minutes), the traditional weather-boarded cottage has a sitting-room cum kitchen with limed oak units and a spiral staircase to the first floor. The upper landing features a vaulted ceiling, as does the 13ft by 10ft bedroom. There's parking for two cars. Call Mullucks on 01279 755400.

FOR £94,950, you can buy Church Cottage, a Grade II listed, black-and-white thatched cottage at Burghill, which is just four miles from Hereford. The house has been completely restored, and it features a 13ft dining room with original stone-flagged



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fireplace, quarry-tiled floor and exposed ceiling and wall timbers. There's a separate sitting room, a fitted kitchen and a downstairs bathroom. Upstairs, one of the two bedrooms is actually a 12ft 9in by 12ft 6in landing. Outside, there is a garden with climbing roses and an

apple tree. In addition, there is a utility room as well as a shed, and planning permission for a driveway and garage has been obtained. Further details from Bill Jackson (01432 344779).

Development

ROSALIND RUSSELL

TEL: 0171 293 2222

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505



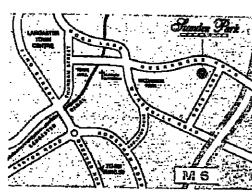
Bordered by mature trees with views across open farmland. Standen Park is situated next to Williamson Park where the Ashton memorial stands.

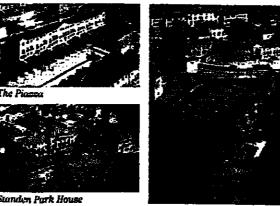
The classical Georgian architecture is the key to the three distinct elements that combine to create the new private estate.

• Standen Park House - twenty one 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedroom homes within a grade II listed building: Prices from £112,500 to £229,000.

 The Piazza - elegant 2, 3 and 4 bedroom three storey mews houses, all built around a central tree lined square and water feature: Prices from £152,000 to £160,000.

 Fifty one New Build 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes that are spread throughout the landscaped grounds: Prices from \$99,950





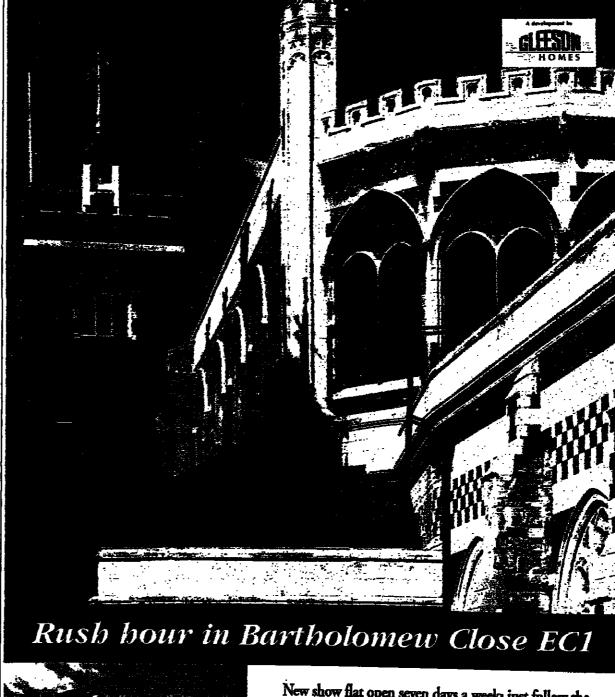
HOW TO FIND US FROM THE M6-Take junction 34. Follow signs to Lancaster. From Lancaster follow signs to Ashton memorial, continue past Ashton memorial, (Quernmore Road), Standen Park is on the right hand side.

ALL ENQUIRIES:





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